

## Can the Internet Save Our Democracy?

Over the past 2 decades, wealthy individuals and corporations have come to dominate the political discourse in this country like never before. The difference between the political agenda in Washington and the concerns of average voters and citizens is like night and day. Rather than going about the people's business, Congress, the President and increasingly the courts have as their first priority the business of Business. This situation is not sustainable over the long term.

In order to restore our democracy to a government of, by and for the people, citizens need to communicate freely, openly and easily.

The internet is the only medium that allows such communication.

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.