

Please do everything possible to guarantee and protect an open, 'neutral' Internet.

We are a working couple who find the Internet a tool which hugely benefits both our livelihoods and our on-going educational growth.

Barry is a design engineer working on specialized motor projects for his employer, which produces motors for medical applications, the petroleum industry, and is a subcontractor to large corporations doing work in aid of national defense. The Internet has revolutionized his working life, thanks to the ready availability of useful information, ideas, and tools.

Judy is a working nurse, Nurse Educator, and a very active member of the U.S. Naval Reserves. The Internet makes possible instant communications, including transmission of vital medical reports and test results between herself and doctors and the patients they serve. Having the Internet available in her home has literally saved lives.

These benefits should be available to everyone, regardless of their 'place' in this society.

We need our government to protect our airwaves from the same corporate gatekeepers that have stifled innovation and competition in Internet markets, and, for that matter, in radio and television.

The ongoing 'capture' of our media by a few power- and profit-hungry corporations is nothing less than a form of piracy. We know that commercial interests, if allowed to do so, will 'parse' all these utilities into profit-determined 'purchaseable' portions based on 'what the market will bear' - in other words, the fastest, most efficient form of the service will only be available to those who can afford it.

This is not democracy. Nor is it fair.

Why should Internet services be perverted to corporate use and control? So that the quality and utility of another wonderful technological tool can be rendered down to the same pitiful, mediocre level of 'infotainment' and propaganda as are television and radio?

Who does the FCC really serve, when they allow capture of multiple media outlets within 'market areas'? Certainly not the citizens of this country, whose exposure to real information flow is thereby reduced to the diameter of the 'faucet' decreed by corporate, commercial, and government 'policy'.

To restore America's leadership in high speed Internet services, the FCC must ensure that the upcoming auction sets aside at least 30 MHz of spectrum for open and non-discriminatory Internet access. This will guarantee that new entrants have the opportunity to enter the market in competition with incumbent providers.

It would be a big mistake to hand over these airwaves to the very same phone and cable companies that dominate the wireline market. That power and control should be diluted as well. We need more competition and innovation, not less. The new wireless spectrum must be open and neutral so that America can build a better Internet for everyone.

Sincerely,

Barry and Judy Blades