

Musician, Composer, Recording Artist, Label VP...

I am a life-long Musician, Composer, Recording Artist, and Label VP. I acquired very useful music company management and general business skills over a period of more than twenty highly successful years while serving the US military bands program. Today, as an artist/businessman working in an industry that is essentially controlled by 4 major corporations, I have found the Internet is the only way that any other entity in the music business can co-exist as an alternative to the worldwide music consumers.

The Internet simply allows all music professionals equal and unbiased access to a real and viable global market of potential customers, listeners and fans. Due to advances in IT and affordable access to a neutral professional-level delivery platform such as the Internet, a new model in the music industry is finally here today. Recording Artists, Fans and Music Business alike are equally well served by this viable access that all of these newest models for global music distribution and sales currently offer.

During the middle of the 20th Century with the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, African-Americans were finally promised the right to vote after centuries of disenfranchisement. The era of the literacy test, the grandfather clause, and the outright exclusion of black Americans from the political process had come to a close, at least officially. Let's not go backwards...

At the beginning of the 21st Century, Net Neutrality provides the essential business tools that can empower segments of our population who have been otherwise unable to access the field of business and entrepreneurship. The Internet has spawned an age of affordable entrepreneurial initiatives that has not been seen for generations in America.

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, it is my understanding that 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.