

Regulation is Necessary to Protect the Public Good

Thank you for reading this. I write because Net Neutrality is being endangered yet again. Americans are losing faith in their government to do the right thing. We are seeing our rights and protections being chipped away at for the sake of increasing corporate profit margins, for greed.

As a computer tech working on my own business, the internet is essential. Even the smallest of sites can be the key to solving an otherwise project-halting issue. The beauty of it is, I can go anywhere knowing I am not being censored by way of telecom favoritism. If a website is prohibitively slow or doesn't load, I know it is a problem with that particular website, not ISP discrimination because that site couldn't pay enough.

The internet also allows start-up blogs like my brother's to become a viable rival to the advertiser-beholden city newspaper, scooping stories before they do, digging deeper into issues, and providing high quality journalism. He can now get into media events because of the weight carried by his words. Would this be possible if these telecommunications companies (monopolies in many areas) were free to put up as many tolls as they liked, squeezing everyone for money? The answer is: most likely not.

The FCC's job, as any FCC employee or official ought to know, is to protect the public good, the good of the public. That's why the FCC exists. But for it to capitulate to the interests of private sector lobbyists is a contravention of its purpose.

The internet is defined by freedom of information. If that freedom is not assured, those with the means to infringe upon it will do so because infringing upon that freedom means more money for them. Play favorites, choke bandwidth, block access, whatever -- they can only gain from such abuse, which is why this abuse inevitable.

If you, the FCC, don't protect the internet, then you are in effect throwing it to the dogs, allowing the telecom giants to manhandle it in any way they see fit in order to enlarge their already massive profits. Anyone in a position of such unchecked power would do the same and you know it, fully.

Power corrupts, and that's why checks and balances are necessary. Removing Net Neutrality protections eliminates those checks and balances needed to preserve the internet as the open and innovation-driving medium that it is.

Letting the market sort this one out will harm the public. What happened to all the Bells of the 1984 telco break-up? They eventually just merged back together, and these mega-corps will act to subvert the public good once again. Their allegiance lies not with us, but with their bottom line. This is obviousness.

However, you are the powers that be on this matter. So protect the public's interests, protect our interests, not theirs. Regulation enforcing a free and open internet is necessary. It is a must. Protect the internet; protect Net Neutrality. Do it for the public good and fulfill the purpose for which you exist.

Thanks for listening.