

Telcos play fair, or we take away their monopoly.

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.

There have been some excellent proposals suggesting that we "delaminate" the provision of services from the basic carrier level of service... since we have given the telcos an important monopoly (existing wired access to our homes), we can insist that they operate in the public's best interest, just as we do for broadcast licenses (though we should have a conversation about how well the FCC is performing on that oversight responsibility in the near future). If the telcos don't want to play fair with this important marketplace, then let's look into paying them a fair price for their installed gear, then completely open the market for provision of services. A truly free market is a good thing, yes?