

Mind the Public Trust

Dear FCC Commissioners,

As a capitalist, I am mindful of the concerns of telecommunications companies like Verizon and Mediacom who expend capital to lay fiber or cable in the ground to people's homes. To some degree, they should be able to charge to recoup and profit off their investment.

However, this theory should not be exploited as an excuse for monopolistic advantage or abuse of the government and public. In the 1970s, the government granted cable companies regional monopolies in order to encourage a high capital expenditure. But part of the trade-off included price controls and customer service guarantees. No American, bar Comcast and its lawyers and lobbyists, would claim that the cable companies have held their end of the public trust.

The FCC should be leery of any attempt by the large, entrenched telecommunications firms to exert influence and/or control over this new delivery platform. Until a truly competitive medium like satellite or wireless emerges, the land-based internet delivery companies should be regulated with price controls and very short term temporary renewal periods.

Kim Bangash
Ridgewood, NJ

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.