

Honoring the commons of 21st century democracy

Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman, FCC

Dear Chairman Martin:

Democracy is only possible in a society that values and maintains "a commons." The Internet IS the commons of the 21st century; without legislation to prevent degraded or blocked access over its entire reach, the free exchange of ideas that is the engine of democracy will fall prey to the moneyed interests that former FCC Chair William Kennard has described as "merely rich."

Given the chairman's ties with the ISP industry, this characterization seems disingenuous and misleading. It is moreover inaccurate to represent the debate over whether to enact legislation that insures internet neutrality as a clash of industry titans, i.e. the ISP vs. Search industries.

What is really at risk here are the freedoms that we as individual citizens within a technologically enabled democratic society hold dear. On this account, I urge you to recommend for legislation that reinstates Net Neutrality.

--Paul Humphreys, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles