

The FCC must reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" so that it can keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.

Constitutional rights are being trampled by these companies in search of profit. There's no guarantees at all about who they will sell this information to, either. Not necessarily to anybody with official standing, and not necessarily anybody with American interests at heart. Terrorists could find and buy this stuff on the black market just as easily as SAMs and Soviet military surplus.

There is no probable cause that justifies the kind of intrusive searches and surveillance being practiced without a warrant by some of these corporations, and we have nothing much in place to stop them, only "policy".

And then there's censorship. The censorship tech to stop real news getting out is improving all the time. For example, there's the example of computer companies like Microsoft helping the Chinese government do what they want. Many younger Chinese don't even believe Tiananmen Square protests happened, because it is censored out of their history, and they take it all for foreign "lies" if they can even get through well enough to see outside sources. I have Western friends who work now in Chinese cities who experience this blocking of the net first-hand. China's Green Wall of censorship may be overt, clumsy, and poorly implemented, but their ideas of how to control political power by use of censorship, and the tech to do it, are not unique.

It's hard to argue with the eyewitness footage of police and soldiers brutalizing unarmed people at peaceful events taken by hundreds of cellphones at the Iranian protests--but that government tried its best to stop those images getting out.

Filtering what you're allowed to see to influence your voting is common to other folks with a political agenda, some of whom sit in corporate offices instead of political ones.

Without vital Net Neutrality protections and the ability to enforce them, the Internet will cease to be a public platform for free speech, equal opportunity, economic growth and innovation. Instead, companies like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast, which have a commercial incentive to limit the free-flowing Web, will decide whose voices are heard.

This is hobbling American democracy and innovation and free speech. It will hobble us as badly as it hobbles the Iranians or the Chinese or the Burmese or the many African countries who practice totalitarian rule.

You still have the power to protect the public interest. Please stand with us and keep the Internet in the hands of the people who use it every day.