

I use the internet for research in non-commercial, international areas for the benefit of small producers and at risk families in the third world. As well, I am able to keep my rates low, and offer free help, because there is such easy access worldwide. Already, the commercialization of the internet has changed it from a tool for people to a tool to get people to buy. Not all life is commercial, and the FCC owes it to its citizens to look beyond the 50 million campaigns of internet companies who in their own words care only about maximizing their profit.

Long distance calling is a classic example. Left to the Telecommunications companies, we would still be paying 2 dollars or more per minute for international long distance. Skype has made a whole host of beneficial things possible, because it is free, once you are on line. Many poor people are able to lift themselves out of difficult circumstances in part because they have free access to information, some, like in agriculture, that goes against the self interest of powerful ag lobbies, and the investments of the very companies that now want to be our gatekeepers.

Profit and self-interest of those rich enough to buy influence should not be what drives decisions, but life, and the common good. I rely on the Internet as a public platform for free speech, equal opportunity, economic growth and innovation. Without vital Net Neutrality protections, companies like Verizon and Comcast, which have a commercial incentive to limit the free-flowing Web, can decide whether I will have a voice online. These companies should not have the power to determine my fate on the Internet.

The FCC must have the power to protect consumer access to the most important communications medium of our time. The FCC must stand with me and keep the Internet in the hands of the people who use it every day. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.