

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 AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast, which have a commercial incentive to limit the free-flowing Web, can decide whether I will have a voice online and what I can hear. These companies should not have the power to determine what information I access 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.

There are strong historical arguments for preserving public access to information and minding the media transmitting it.

"Information is the currency of democracy." - Thomas Jefferson

"The preservation of the means of knowledge among the lowest ranks is of more importance to the public than all the property of the rich men in the country." - John Adams

"A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." - James Madison

To do this, we must be able to see the few who would manipulate popular information to their own benefit. "Ignorant, restless desperadoes, without conscience or principles, have led a deluded multitude to follow their standard, under pretense of grievances which have no existence but in their own imaginations." - Abigail Adams

An example, "A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small 'inside' group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes." - Maj.- Gen. Smedley Butler, highest ranking US Marine and most decorated US soldier, two Congressional Medals of Honor, 1935

Another, "The people don't want war, but" they "can always be brought to the bidding of their leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, ... It works the same in every country." - Hermann Goering during the Nuremberg Trials

Another, "It is our job to make women unhappy with what they have." - B. Earl Puckett, Allied Stores

Corp. 1953

"In each cultural era, the medium in which information is recorded and transmitted is decisive in determining the character of that culture." - Marshall McLuhan (1911-80)

"The 20th century has been characterized by three developments...: ...democracy, ...corporate power, and ...corporate propaganda ...protecting corporate power against democracy." - Alex Carey, social scientist, 1995

"The greatest threat to democracy is the increasing concentration of major electronic media in ever fewer hands." - Rep. David Price (D-NC)