

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.

1. How is the open Internet an essential part of your life?

Being a low income person, I have to decide every day how to make myself educated on today's news and events. Access to news online is essential to that continuing education process, especially as I have discontinued my newspaper and cable access to save money in these hard economic times. To not leave the internet open, gives rise to the ability of big companies to create monopolies on information and create closed markets against people like me. I also use the internet as a means for economic growth, from selling on eBay my vintage and handcrafted clothing, to searching for better jobs and educational opportunities, like classes from my local library system. Letting telecom companies decide what websites I have access to through slowing the net to force funneling to their "preferred" sites means I get limited access to all the opportunities available out there. Not only that, but I could see if I have a small website to promote myself, I have fewer choices with which to pr!

omote myself, making it harder to compete as a small business person. The internet allows the small business person to reach their niches, when their clientele is spread far and wide ; it equals the big "Walmarts" of the world to the level of the main street small business owner - through that magical resource medium of access, the internet. For a small price, I reach my public and my public reaches me. I can see that ending if these purposed changes take place.

It also means my access to fair and balanced information is limited if these changes take place. Imagine if FoxNews had the leg up in the online "news" market! The Internet is the true future of unbiased journalism - it gives an opportunity for many voices to report on information as it breaks, it offers reviews in real time on events of great importance. When information is the greatest weapon, limiting who has the ability to give that information and who has the ability to receive that information is a fantastic act of war.

I can honestly say the internet has made me a better educated, and better empowered American, through my ability to expose myself to bigger ideas offered from many different sources.

2. Why must the FCC act now to protect Net Neutrality?

I think the answer below pretty much sums it up. The internet is one of the last true vestiges of free speech. Thus, it is imperative to the American spirit to keep this resource accessible and open to everyone! This is about Democracy - if we let these big corporations "buy" our last medium of democracy, what do we have left but a world operated by corporate despots? Let the little man have

the same footing as the big guys!!

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.