

As a freelance graphic designer I rely on the internet consistently to find new work, and to keep communication with my clients daily and especially for sending large files of finished professional print size artwork in a timely fashion. Were it not for the internet and its cheap reliability my career field would not even be possible. Freelance design and illustration was a very small niche market in the past due to the costs involved and the extra time it took to send art through physical mail. Now with the internet freelance positions have become not only the norm, but the majority in my field. It is by far not a rich living, most of us just barely make ends meet but we are doing that which fulfills our ambitions and dreams; the American ideal of freedom. If the internet became a higher priced structuring of fees, only the people in the field who are already doing well will have a chance to survive, while the rest of us will have an onerous burden placed upon them of trying!

ng to keep up.

In modern times it has become increasingly difficult if not impossible to get along without the internet. The majority of jobs you must apply for on the internet, some companies and banks have gone completely "paperless" and you must deal with them on the internet for anything amounting to a timely amount of help. Some companies have phone lines to call, but it is no longer their priority so if you need something done right away you are out of luck if you have no internet access. If you live in a fairly remote region as I do it remains the only way to keep in contact with friends and family, some of which have no phones of any kind because of the expense. The internet is for sure the only real way to look for work anymore, even the employment agency will refer you to the internet the very first thing. Newspapers are all but dead, and cannot compete with how fast the internet is, so if you apply for a job from a newspaper chances are very high that it was already filled by s!

someone with internet access.

If the Internet becomes a burden to use because of expense you will be discriminating against hundreds of thousands, possible millions of Americans who will not be able to afford higher tier fees. The internet has become far more than merely crass entertainment, it has become an absolutely necessary tool for survival in the modern age. There are many state and government programs that could not otherwise be accessed by citizens, and even medical help is leaning more and more towards use of the internet. Have you tried booking an airline flight, looking up a library book, keeping track of registration for college classes, advertising a business, looking up an address, keeping your banking statements straightened out, pay on your credit card, getting a copy of medical instructions, talking back and forth in real time with a remote employer on a project... without the internet? In short, count for yourself all the things you do on the internet, things your life and livelihood

od depend upon, and then tell me with a straight and honest face that the internet is still an "option" to people. The internet has become an integral necessity of modern life, I can count on one hand the

people I know with no internet access.

Please keep the last bastion of freedom, and growth of livelihood free and open to all those that need it for survival.

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.