

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.

I remember the days before cable TV, when the two big reasons for promoting cable tv were that: 1) there would be much more variety of programming made available, and 2) the programming on Cable TV would be Commercial Free! We have seen how much we can trust what the cable companies say about benefiting the public. This is clear proof of why we need Net Neutrality. If Comcast and Verizon have their way, the government-controlled broadcast of TV signals will control all of the internet in the same commercially selfish way they control the television channels now. We can't let that happen to the Internet! It is much more important to our society than their control of our television channels. I get much of my news from the Internet, as well as doing most of my research on the internet, for a wide variety of things such as solar energy for the home to renewing my car license plates online, banking online, reading papers and books online, researching health problems, keepi!

ng track of my expenditures, finding recipes, the list is endless. I'm not a cyber-junkie (one that is on his computer 12 hours a day), only a modest user, but it is invaluable to me. I can find many, many times more information that I was able to find twenty years ago, and it is so much easier for me to find it online that to have to go to the library and search through books, magazines and newspapers. I also can find much more information online than I could ever find in the libraries. A few weeks ago my wife went to Europe and we were able to talk every day via internet with very minimal cost. As one more example of the irreplaceable value of the Internet, I remember when I was a US combat infantry man in Viet Nam and was wounded in combat. My parents received a telegram saying I had been shot and that no further details were available. Several weeks later when I finally was able to make a commercial phone call home from the second hospital I was sent to, it cost !

me \$40 (in 1967 dollars) to briefly call my parents and tell t!

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s okay. They had been terribly worried. If that had happened I would have been able to call home much sooner and at a cost of nearly nothing (I expect that today's wounded US troops in Afghanistan have free access to the internet to call home after they've been shot.) There are many, probably countless, reasons why the Internet must not be controlled by, or must not even favor, the big commercial companies trying to gain control of a large portion of it. Please don't let this happen. Please keep the internet free and open for all, not controlled by private corporations. PLEASE SUPPORT NET NEUTRALITY!

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. This is so very important to me and to all other ordinary citizens. IF you let the private media companies have control of the internet channels, access, usage, and content, you will turn out the light in the lives and shut off the air for ordinary people. PLEASE SUPPORT NET NEUTRALITY.