

Personally, I depend on the Internet as a resource providing me with a delicious variety of viewpoints. I can consider many or all of these, and based on my own research and careful consideration, I can make a decision about where I stand, what I think, etc. The point is that all of the information on a given debate, topic, etc., is potentially available to me because the Internet has not yet been sold to those who would violate the basic democratic nature of what is the only public forum left in this country. Television is basically worthless in terms of equal opportunity and free speech. The very companies that want to gain control of the Internet are the same companies that have turned television into a bastion of mediocrity and limited information. Newspapers no longer function as a watchdog over government, as it allows rampant corporate greed and malfeasance to become synonymous with our times. The dismal, offensive, wholly undemocratic behavior of the mainstream media over the past decade speaks volumes regarding the efficacy of today's print media.

In order to be a truly informed member of this society, I must have access to information. We, the people, must have access to a great variety of information--facts, ideas, opinions, etc. If you fail to protect this last venue for the free exchange of information and ideas, I have nowhere else to go to access the information required for a democracy to function. The Internet will follow the way of newspapers and television before it.

The FCC must use its power to fully protect consumer access to the only truly democratic communications medium of our time. The FCC must stand with me and keep the Internet in the hands of "the people" who depend on its broad, varied, and essential information. It is the very last tool of democracy accessible to all of us. I do not exaggerate. Your decision in this matter is of grave importance. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.