

As a small creative business, I interact with my clients and prospective clients in a variety of ways through the internet. I rely on its open-ness, freedom and low cost to support what I do every day. IT IS VERY HARD TO QUANTIFY HOW MUCH A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET IS TO SMALL BUSINESSES LIKE MINE, BUT IT HAS BECOME ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL! 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 OR THE FATE OF MY BUSINESS 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. This is the same concept as having the highways, telephones and water, gas and electrical service regulated and organized for the greater public good. Privatization of any of these turns them into a capital asset to be used (or possibly abused) for profit at the expense of the greater good. Take a look at the history of fire departments; the old-fashioned pre-municipal independent competing fire companies caused huge losses of property and lives until fire protection services were assumed by municipalities. The internet is certainly the domain of the FCC and applicable regulatory bodies. Note, this is not socialism or an inhibition of a free-

arket economy, it is utilizing a resource/service for the greatest good, including for the economy.