

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.

The FCC can't cut private deals that would hand control over the Internet to a few massive phone and cable companies. Any compromise that allows Internet providers to build toll lanes online is not real Net Neutrality. The Internet must remain an open and nondiscriminatory, neutral platform for consumers and entrepreneurs alike -- the Open Internet has destroyed barriers to entry for new businesses -- as it has provided a level playing field for new entrepreneurs and existing entrepreneurs alike. Special back room deals like the one rumored between Verizon and Google would harm the Open Internet. It would make it harder for new Web companies to emerge that may compete with Google -- Google used to be a backer of Net Neutrality but tragically they've turned their backs now against it. Even with this disappointing news the FCC must have the power to protect Net Neutrality and protect Net Neutrality whether the telecoms and cable companies like it or not.

The agency must stand with the public and protect consumer access to the most important communications medium of our time. The FCC must regain its resolve to protect Net Neutrality on wired and wireless networks. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.