

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 internet does not belong to companies like Google and Verizon; it belongs to all of us. It was started by the government and populated with content created by "we the people." The internet is extremely important to me. I was a policy and research analyst for state government for 25 years and the internet revolutionized my profession and greatly facilitated my ability to track down documents and laws. Furthermore, the internet provides news and information for an ever-growing segment of the population. Democracy cannot survive without the free flow of information. I can't imagine going back!

ward.

The internet is a "commons." Companies like Google, Verizon, Comcast, etc. are simply conduits and switchyard operators, whose entire role should be to ensure the free and expeditious flow of content without impediment. They must have no role in determining content priority or in charging for content; that is not their right or responsibility. There is not enough competition as it is in internet service providers. This deal is a thinly disguised attempt to privatize our commons, and your job, as a regulatory agency is to protect the commons and serve the public.

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 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.