

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 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.

[This may be a form letter but I believe in it whole-heartedly. The idea that Google's and Verizon's proposal could gain traction terrifies me. I'd like to think my reaction would be to cut off the internet service at my home, but in today's day and age, it's unlikely that will happen. What I can continue to do is support candidates who agree that Net Neutrality is essential for America. Whether it's the creative freedom, or the economic freedom found in online startups and the "little guy" (Etsy, anyone?), or just having the freedom to communicate without barriers - I don't think it's an overstatement to say that Net Neutrality is really the policy that truly encompasses our Constitutional values of freedom for the digital age.

Many might say it's no different than our cable television systems. While I also don't agree with the structure regarding those, it's hard to find justification that HBO and Showtime are rightfully any citizen's. But the access internet provides to information IS the right of any citizen. While many may not be able to afford home service, there's a reason politicians and activists are calling for expanded service to rural areas. That library use has gone up for online job searching in this economy. We value net neutrality enough to expand its access to every corner - but we don't value it enough to make sure its promise is kept for every American.]