

As an educator and a former high school English and social studies teacher, the open Internet has been an invaluable resource for me and my students to communicate with all sorts of scholars, thinkers artists and ordinary people from across the world and to draw on all types of information throughout their learning. My students from Los Angeles inner city neighborhoods have been amazed by what and whom they can relate to via the Internet and have gained a renewed sense of their democratic-republic and a respect for what such a facilitation of freedom can be and do. The Internet has not cost them anything more than finding access via a school or home computer or all sorts of wireless tools, and a Net-connection. Young people can see why it's so important to contribute to our common good as they see what the open Internet's invention has done for them and others. "E pluribus unum" has come alive . . . up to now.

If that connection were to be severed by an electronic segregation, the United States would regress, and doubts, so many doubts about the ideals of the United States not being strong enough to withstand forces of the rich or corporate classes, would abound. Why should students care to be fair, if the Internet is not?

As a peace activist and a writer, I rely on an open Internet as I do my experiences, observations and voice--to bear witness and to create means for us to live nonviolently by reaching out to a diversity of people openly, social networking and listening.

As a human being, I rely on an open Internet in the 21st century to be free. Just as the First and Fourteenth Amendments need time and space to be exercised, they need cyberspace.

Why should a tool that the United States built with our public funds and resources be shuttered to serve private interests? It is our commonwealth. There would be no online economic, political or social benefit to anyone had we not had an open Internet from the start!

The FCC is charged with serving the public interest. Our self-government and public interest require that the Internet be open for all equally. Without those conditions, we stifle innovation and the health of our pluralistic society. Our Constitution commits us to "promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." The FCC must honor that commitment.

One Nation; One Net: Open and Neutral!

