

I don't believe that money is speech, but I've repeatedly seen that money motivates dishonest speech, much of it uttered by paid "experts." This money-motivated dishonesty is a recurring problem regarding many issues, including the topic of Network Neutrality which are nondiscrimination rules to guarantee open access to the Web from corporate gatekeepers. We pay Internet service providers to move data from point to point. We don't pay them to steer us to selected sites (by speeding up access times) or to discourage us from using other sites (by slowing down or blocking access). Nor do we pay them to decide what applications we can use over the Internet. I should be free to use Skype even if it competes with the phone company's own telephone service. Giving Internet users this unimpeded choice of content and applications is the essence of "net neutrality," and it has inspired unceasing innovation over the Internet. I know Congress is under big pressure (and receiving big money) from companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon, who want to become the gatekeepers of the Internet. They would like to carve up the Internet so that it would become like cable TV, with tiered plans and limited menus of content that they would dictate. Phone and cable companies should not be allowed to dictate how we use the Internet. I am urging Congress to hold its ground and stand up for the public interest in defending the Open Internet from these corporations. I also urge the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to enforce the Network Neutrality rules it implemented in December 2010 -- but would prefer statutory stronger rules that also apply to wireless devices and mobile broadband. I reject a two tiered Internet -- with unequal slow public and private fast lanes where the public lane may be nondiscriminatory and new fast lanes can have so called managed services that enable discrimination. I also urge the Federal Communications Commission and U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division to investigate anti competitive business practices by the big telecom and cable companies to discriminate against competing applications online and sanction/punish them for such bad behavior. Also reject future mergers that can further endanger the Open Internet by giving more market power to the duopoly providers they will have more incentive to commit market abuses. Already some are abusing their market dominance letting them get bigger and more abusive is just wrong. That's why I oppose AT&T Mobility's mergers with T Mobil USA and Qualcomm.