

The Justice Department and FCC's decision to stand up to AT&T's telecom lobbyists and deny the AT&T T-Mobile merger was good for consumers, competition and in preserving open access to the mobile internet which would have become more closed off post-merger with users facing more discrimination from wireless internet service providers.

The Open Internet spurs innovation and enables social media campaigns on websites like SignOn.org operated by MoveOn.org, to Change.org which a disgruntled Bank of America customer used to successfully petition Bank of America to ditch its proposed \$5 debit card fees to JobParty.us a website campaigning for solutions to the country's job crisis and projects like MoveOurMoneyUSA.org to move people's money out of the big banks and report their moving the money to a community bank.

Thus the Open Internet enables online organizing and political activism for all Americans regardless of whether they are on the left, right, center left, or center right of the political spectrum. It allows us to fight for social and economic change -- its even being used by the SaveTheInternet.com Coalition to save the Internet from corporate gatekeepers like AT&T, Comcast, Time Warner Cable, CenturyLink, Verizon Wireless, Verizon Communications etc. The Internet is used by some to even fight corporate power but now big telecom and cable companies -- giant corporations want the power to discriminate online against specific websites and create a two-tiered unequal internet. The Network Neutrality rules the F.C.C. passed are far from perfect but are necessary to help preserve the open internet -- if the FCC wants to ensure it has statutory and legal authority to protect the open internet though that cannot be overturned by the courts it must reclassify broadband under Title II of the Telecommunications Act.

That being said the FCC must also stop giving in to the telecom and cable lobby and must stop future telecom and cable consolidation that endangers the future of the open internet. When corporate gatekeepers consolidate power they gain more power to discriminate online. That's why the FCC's decision to deny AT&T T-Mobile was great for competition, consumers and the future of the mobile internet.