

An Open Internet is essential for political activism and to give the public an opportunity to comment on communications and media policy. When Bank of America proposed its outrageous debit card fee to charge us just for using our debit cards consumers got together signing internet petitions that attracted attention from the media and Washington D.C. forcing the major banks to drop their plans for such fees. It took months to do so but we were victorious. Recently, Verizon announced a \$2 online bill pay fee only to revoke it after media attention, similar public criticism and FCC skepticism. The victory against Verizon came sooner than the victory over the banks. That being said we need an Open Internet to continue our activism. Defend Network Neutrality and reclassify broadband under Title II to do so by enforcing competition mandates.

Verizon Wireless's spectrum deal with big cable that could spell the death knell for FIOS services should be investigated. This deal should be rejected in its current form because of the non-compete agreement allowing big cable to dominate land-line service and for companies like AT&T and Verizon to dominate wireless. Moreover Verizon's outrageous \$2 convenience fee the F.C.C. said it would investigate should still be investigated despite Verizon's decision for now to not institute the fee. Their only biding their time for a new F.C.C. hopefully that would be less protective of the public and for the public outcry to die down. A full scale audit should be done of Verizon's finances. Verizon and AT&T both have cheated on their taxes since 2008 using loopholes in tax code.

Remember when consumers got together to beat Bank of America and the entire banking industry backed away from charging us just for using our debit cards. Well now Verizon which along with AT&T, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and other multinationals paid no taxes between 2008-2010 has decided to impose a fee for users paying bills online. Let's tell Verizon to stop nickel and dim-ing customers.