

Hello:

It is imperative that the internet be open and equal with the same free access for everyone. If there is a "fast lane, slow lane" system that will be the exact opposite of open and equal. No matter what you say and no matter what the big companies providing access say, if there is a two tier system that will be the end of an open, equal and free internet. This would simply be another example of "haves" and "have nots" and it would stifle anything coming from anyone who was not rich or affiliated with ruling power.

The issue of needing faster service for video or gaming streaming etc should not in any way be solved by taking away from everything else. The companies already have the capability to meet those broadband needs, they are just looking for a way to monetize it to their advantage. And the rich, powerful entities will exploit this moment to shut down the free flow of information by pushing for this two-tier system, by making the internet as ruled by money as our political system has become.

What you do now will impact the world in an immeasurably damaging way if you go down this road of "fast lane, slow lane" and you will be held responsible for generations to come.

Think of the oppressive regimes all over the world whose control has been pierced by the ability of their people to get the word out to the world and to each other by using Twitter, Facebook and small, run-on-a-shoestring websites dedicated to free speech. And small companies are able to reach people as easily as Amazon.com does. All that and more would stop in a two-tier system.

I urge you to do the right thing, to make sure the internet is available to everyone equally, with money and power or without money and power.

thank you,

Melanie Henderson