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I have asked my neighbors, my friends, my family, and my classmates to comment on this issue. Considering that many government forms, job applications, general communications, high schools, universities, banking, and other institutions are basing their interactions on the idea that customers/citizens have internet access and that knowledge of computers is more and more essential to a person's successful career, I would state that it is an essential utility. I can no more do the work I need to do for school or my business when the internet is out than I can when the electricity is shut off.

Last year Comcast was 46th on the Fortune 500 List with \$6,203,000 (yes, billion) in PROFIT (not revenue), Time Warner Cable was 102nd on the Fortune 500 List with \$21,400,000 in profits, and Century Link was 150th on the Fortune 500 list with \$18,000,000 in profits. In a number of states, local governments are limiting the competition that these companies are subject to (see: <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/02/utah-bill-would-stop-regional-fiber-networks-from-expanding/>) and in a recent article in technology review, 'The cable distribution giants like Time Warner Cable and Comcast are already making a 97 percent margin on their ?almost comically profitable? Internet services, according to Craig Moffet, an analyst at the Wall Street firm Bernstein Research.' (article: <http://www.technologyreview.com/news/510176/when-will-the-rest-of-us-get-google-fiber/>). Not only are our internet prices incredibly high, there is a de facto monopoly by these companies, but in many places local governments are being persuaded to make laws treating Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Century Link as a local utility by banning all other competition.

Considering that one of the easiest manners to gut the efficiency of an agency meant to protect the public is to underfund and understaff it, promises to manage these large companies' neutrality on a 'case by case' basis cannot be considered a serious solution.

Every politician likes to hail STEM as the next wave and so many articles talk about how students don't have the technology skills needed for employers, but as a nation, the citizens are asking to KEEP the access to technology they need for their businesses, their education, and their day-to-day living while the FCC is considering taking it away or asking the citizens to pay even more for the same poor service and slow (or slower) speeds that have been provided.

So much of our economy is based on internet connectivity - from wall street speed trades to ebay sellers to 'made for internet' movie actors to bloggers to everyone who has ever worked from home to every business with a website - and the key to keeping this equally accessible to all citizens of the united states is to keep the net neutral and classify these services as a common utility.