

Net neutrality must be enforced for the following reasons:

- Cable companies have a monopoly: approximately 96% of the population has at most two wireline providers (source Broadband.gov). In Baltimore, one can subscribe to Comcast but not Time Warner Cable. The same goes for landlines and DSL internet access: I can only subscribe to Verizon;
- Internet providers should not be allowed to charge specific services for bandwidth. Netflix, a movie streaming service, had their connection rate plummet on Comcast's service prior to their Feb. 2014 deal (source Washington Post - Apr. 24, 2014). The agreement stated that Netflix would pay a premium for Comcast to grant its service faster streaming. Needless to say, Netflix's connection speed soared after the deal was signed;
- How are start-ups supposed to compete with giants like Netflix? The latter was able to build a business model based on its traffic flowing freely online. Currently Netflix is able to pay for access to faster speeds, but that wasn't always the case;
- The end of net neutrality does not bring any benefits to consumers. We already suffer from the lack of competition and the many advantages that companies such as Comcast and Verizon get through their aggressive use of lobbying in Washington, DC. Comcast spent over \$18 million on lobbying last year. Only Northrop Grumman, a military/defense contractor has outspend the cable giant (source: Center for Responsive Politics).

Please don't do away with net neutrality. From federal studies (Broadband.gov) to major newspapers (Washington Post) and nonpartisan research groups, the consequences of eliminating net neutrality are numerous, serious and negative. The arguments in favor of ending net neutrality are coming from the corporations which will benefit from it. Therefore they are biased and should not be taken into account by the FCC, a government agency tasked with defending the interests of the people, not of the corporations, of the United States.