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I am an American citizen living overseas in a country that has no respect for freedom of the Internet. Here in Turkey, we have a 2-tier internet in the sense that certain websites such as Youtube and, for more than a month, Twitter are or have been blocked entirely. Clearly, that is a deplorable situation and completely contrary to the openness and freedom of expression that the Internet embodies.

In America, direct censorship is not as much of an issue as in other countries. However, the proposed FCC rule change that would allow Internet providers to charge more for faster connection speeds would stifle freedom of expression in much the same way. It is obvious that Internet users disfavor websites with slow download speeds and are more likely to seek out content that flows more quickly. Therefore, websites which cannot afford to pay extra charges that the Internet providers will tack on for faster connection speeds will find that their content is effectively out in the wilderness - not blocked per se, yet ignored by the vast majority of users. The result of this would be to privilege a minority of voices on the Internet over those of the majority, to narrow the scope of online discourse, to destroy the openness and freedom of expression that make the Internet a great protector of American democracy.

Thank you very much for your attention.
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