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The most successful aspects of this country's rich history are based on institutional support of egalitarian access to information and communication. Examples include the institutionalization of a postal system, the establishment of our public school system, the development of our roads and highways, our electrical grid, our phone lines, and the 15th and 19th amendments. These fundamental structures underpin the ideal of egalitarian access to participation and opportunity, the very essences of this great experiment we call The United States of America. We are successful because we are inclusive. The cable operators' interests in controlling Internet delivery is our generation's watershed moment. Allowing the cable companies monopolistic power over our basic channels of communication places our information and communication structures in a profit-driven paradigm that 1) contrasts with ALL successful historical scaffolds designed to protect and promote participation and opportunity (see above and consider the history of the power and telephone companies and what was ultimately done to best serve the broad potential of the public), 2) actively undermines public access and opportunity, and 3) ultimately holds the citizen and consumer over an expensive barrel. In summary, if the cable companies get their way, there will be nothing "free" about this market for citizens, consumers or entrepreneurs alike. PAY, PLAY and PROFIT must be balanced and duly regulated to PROTECT PARTICIPATION and OPPORTUNITY. Thank you for your consideration.

Cassie Robbins, MA NYU (Media, Culture & Communication), media consultant, former cable television network executive and former adjunct professor of Media Studies, Mercy College