

I'm an artist who works as an editor and tutor. My partner is an illustrator. We are considering moving—and almost anywhere in the country is on the table, since we know that our livelihoods require little more than an internet connection.

The internet's reliable, unfettered flow of information is truly a public utility that we depend on almost as much as electricity or running water. The proposed internet fast lanes are a horrible idea. They would be anticompetitive, anti-entrepreneurial, anti-innovative, and anti-American.

The marketplace of ideas is foundational to the American way of life. The internet currently embodies its ideal, which would be dealt a serious blow if content providers can buy favorable positioning.

I can only imagine these fast lanes would have a chilling effect on the free flow of information online, and the educational side of my business would suffer. The editorial side of would suffer as well if content providers pass costs onto end users. In fact, I can think of no one who would benefit, save enormously wealthy companies who are already practically monopolies, and who do not need more unfair advantages.

Well, venal policy makers might benefit as well. But whoever makes this decision should recognize that truly everyone will face the wide-ranging consequences. An America without net neutrality would be a weaker one. It would be a less innovative, less interesting, and less hopeful place to live.