

7521825727.txt

On the subject of net neutrality, I would like to express that I believe allowing telecommunications providers to sell preferential bandwidth speeds or channels to content providers is a blatant violation of our constitution and an endangerment to the principles of equality on which this country was founded.

To use an analogy, telecommunications providers are a construction company building the road that connects two places. But there is no place in America where "preferred" drivers have a different speed limit. This would infringe upon the equal rule of law. Moreover, these companies are contracted to do this job by the government for the good of the people, who pay for the road via taxes. Telecom companies provide us with internet but they do not in any sense "own" it, it is something constructed and paid for by the people as a whole, to discriminate in such a manner would constitute a private company seeking gross profit from a public institution. As is the case with any national infrastructure, the internet should be protected and maintained by the government in a way that ensures equality for all. Allowing telecom providers to compromise net neutrality amounts to permitting the privatization of a public service, something that profoundly violates America's founding principles.

From an economic standpoint, such a measure would also encourage monopolization of the internet by companies that are large and affluent enough to dominate the landscape. While this is acceptable under a strict capitalist system, it is not in keeping with our country's laws, nor does it comply with the equal opportunity promised to all people in the US constitution. The telecommunications sector is already a near monopoly thanks to the unchecked growth of a handful of enormous companies, and statistics show that this has led to poorer quality of service due to lack of competition. Such a monopoly cannot be allowed to exist within the framework of the internet itself. This is a serious violation of our first amendment rights, and it also gives unfair advantage to larger companies, discouraging free market competition.

Just as Americans should have the right to choose internet providers, they should also have the right to connect to services and content based on personal preference, not due to speed of service. This will not lead to innovation and advancement, as larger, richer services will receive customers not due to quality of the service or content itself, but rather because there are no viable alternatives.

I understand that the FCC employs a large number of industry "insiders", to you I would say please remember that public office requires that you put the needs of the public before personal gain. Please bear this in mind as you continue to fight for an virtual landscape that, mirroring our own physical one, promises the same inalienable rights to all people.