

Dear FCC,

My name is Tony P. and I live in Bluefield, VA.

Net neutrality, the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data that travels over their networks equally, is important to me because without it users may have fewer options and a less diverse Internet.

A pay-to-play Internet worries me because new, innovative services that can't afford expensive fees for better service will be less likely to succeed.

Every major site online began as someone with an idea. The internet allows people with genuinely great ideas to thrive. It's the ultimate representation of true freedom. Ideas, even unpopular ones, are shared freely at the speed of light. The market decides what succeeds. A free internet is everything the USA was meant to be. Destroying net-neutrality would give corporations (that are already borderline monopolies) the ability to block any start-up that might compete with them or their partners. Not to mention they'll be able to stifle anyone who says or does something online that they disagree with. Allowing corporations the ability to permit or deny certain sites access based on their ability to pay is the antithesis of freedom. It's everything our founding fathers fought against.

All the rest of this aside, doing away with net-neutrality would put the US at a serious disadvantage on the global stage. Access to the best ideas and information will be limited or denied altogether. Other nations which still provide unfettered access to the web will begin to pull away from the US economically, creatively, scientifically and educationally. We will grow stagnant as only approved content is allowed to trickle through. Destroying net neutrality will mark the end of the days when Americans can say proudly that we live in the greatest nation on earth. We will become a digital police state where freedom and liberty are ideas spoken of in hushed tones. That's not the kind of place any of us wants to live in.

Sincerely,

Tony P.