

Dear FCC,

My name is Rachel Jensen and I live in Bozeman, MT.

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.

The Internet is important to me because, as a graduate student in the Sciences, I have found that the internet is the most efficient, easiest, and best way to learn and to share information. Even in addition to current published scientific articles, the internet provides me with a wealth of information that I need to do my own research. I can easily know what work is already ready to be published and share ideas with others before I try to publish my own. On top of that, if my advisor or someone else in the department is not available, I can easily look up methods for any procedure I am unsure about without having to dig through several dense scientific papers before I find something I can use. The internet as it is now is a valuable research tool.

At an even more basic level, the information I obtained from the internet as an undergraduate student was invaluable. In addition to what I learned in class, I could learn something in more detail or simply in another way by searching for that information online. Looking things up in a book today, often provides severely outdated research, while new ideas are added to the internet every day! Teachers and professors use it as a teaching tool in class too, finding videos to help illustrate internal biological or chemical processes or using satellite images and geologic maps to describe geologic principles. It even provides most of the images and diagrams educators use in presentations. It is an incredible learning resource! I don't think my undergraduate experience would have been as fulfilling without it. Furthermore, I know there are people, unable to afford a college education, that use the internet as a learning tool on their own. If no one had access to new information as quickly and easily as they do now, I fear we would enter a Dark Age of information availability, and people would be so much less informed.

As of right now, the internet provides me with news from around the world. It is my sole news source. Graduate students have busy lives (note that I am taking the time to write to you!), and being able to access unbiased news easily and quickly is important. I can look at multiple news sources in minutes to get the best possible understanding of world events. This not only saves me time, but keeps me well-informed while leading a lifestyle in which I could become easily isolated by academia. This enables me to be a good citizen. Having well-informed, conscientious, educated citizens can only benefit us as country.

Sincerely,

Rachel Jensen