

# The Grouse House Gazette

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Weekly Thoughts on Music, Nature, and **Politics**, from the Catskill Mountains

## **THE URGENCY OF NET NEUTRALITY!**

As we are all busy watching the daily firing squads of our latest sexual deviants... the Trump/Republican action that will probably most negatively impact our lives (short of a North Korean hydrogen bomb in a shipping container) is rolling out quietly on this holiday weekend... as the FCC is about to destroy Net Neutrality.

There are five FCC commissioners. And whichever party is in power gets three votes... against two for the minority party. So we just went from Obama's 3 commissioners SAVING Net Neutrality to Trump... the GOP... and powerful lobbyists from the telecommunications and internet powerhouses having 3.

### **Some History...**

Back in April of 2010 a Federal Appeals Court quietly made a decision that favored the telecommunications industry over the public in their ability to segment the internet into regions of accessibility and speed... thus giving larger more powerful "players" an "edge" in our internet future. Screwing the "little guys" again.

After Obama was able to save Net Neutrality... it seemed to go away. NOT!

It has taken seven years for the GOP to gain the power to finally destroy the freedom of the internet... as the votes at the FCC have now flipped.

This really shouldn't be a "left or right" issue... or "liberal" or "conservative"...

As *everyone* should want internet freedom. If nothing is wrong... why "fix" it?

It's all about lobbyists and money... again. [Money money money money!](#)

In the past you may have heard something about "net neutrality"... but like myself you probably didn't fully understand the issue and with all of the political "double speak" flying around the news channels it made it all seem quite confusing.

So I will try to explain as simply as possible what happened with the 2010 appeals court decision... and what will be happening in the near future. Unless we stop it.

Americans on ALL sides should rise up and *demand* for this not to happen.

Certainly... the greatest power of the internet has been the freedom it provides to go anywhere you want, see anything you want, and experience thoughts, expressions, and information from all points on earth on an "even playing field".

This "even playing field" also generates competition and innovation.

But the powerful special interests behind the telecommunications and cable companies won their argument in court that they should be able to control and manipulate the internet information that flows through the broadband networks and portals that *they* own. Even though the government and tax payers created the internet in the first place.

After winning their case in the April 2010 decision they began planning to change the totally free and open Internet that we have known for decades to a multitiered world of a future with higher prices, regulation, varying speed, and limited accessibility to some sites and services.

Thanks to Obama and the Democrats this was stopped once before.

But now it is full speed ahead... Unless enough Americans rise to stop it.

Plans also call for charging web sites for accessibility to restricted areas.

Barry Diller (who's businesses include Ticketmaster, Expedia, and Match.com) described the changes as being like charging a toaster to be plugged into an electrical outlet.

And of course it could also be quite easy through these "levels of access" to control thoughts, ideas, and political philosophies from flowing freely through the web. China is already successfully doing this and the Egyptian government's ability to turn off the Internet with a single switch took a lot of people by surprise.

The Republicans obviously have the telecommunications and cable lobbyists firmly behind them. But how will they possibly sell this change to the public?

In 2011 (back before the first FCC stopped it and the GOP thought they were going to be able to do this then) in an astounding Orwellian "truth speak" scenario straight out of the novel "1984"... House Speaker at the time John Boehner gave a speech in Nashville warning of a "government takeover of the internet" with descriptions of the FCC's limitation of the freedoms of the telecommunications and internet companies.

As those same companies plotted to restrict our own freedom of internet usage.

Keep in mind that this is the same Republican Party that convinced the public that a health care bill that handed all of the business over to privately held companies was a "government takeover" that also included "death panels" for the elderly.

They did it before and they will do it again.

We are seriously about to lose our internet freedoms.

The future sure isn't what it used to be.

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