July 15, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554


Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net) is a national network, working for media change to end poverty, eliminate racism and ensure human rights. Together, our 175 members represent communities of color, low-income consumers, rural and Tribal members and migrant communities. In short, we represent the interests of the most marginalized communities in our nation.

Our Network believes the Open Internet plays a pivotal role in ensuring racial and economic equity in the 21st century. Without a strong legal framework that ensures the benefits of the Internet are broadly shared, our members are forced to navigate a platform that further entrenches and exacerbates harmful disparities. In particular, any devolution of network neutrality rules will harm independent artists, musicians and social justice advocates that currently use the open Internet to reach audiences otherwise inaccessible in a heavily corporatized and consolidated media. Without an Open Internet, these innovators and entrepreneurs face tremendous barriers to entry that choke their opportunities for creative expression, opportunity, democratic participation and community building.

In order to ensure an equitable future for our most vulnerable communities, it’s essential that the FCC prioritize the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of voices that are often overlooked or undervalued. To this end, MAG-Net has devised a creative solution to visibly clarify the threat posed to our members by weak network neutrality rules, and refute the incorrect presumption that the FCC can protect our digital future with Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act.

Arts and culture can provide a public narrative about the Internet otherwise unavailable to decision-makers. The creative use of words and images have long moved people in our society to think critically about issues that impact entire communities through emotional
connections that arise from reading and listening to poetry. This filing—a first we believe, in FCC history—marks a moment when the collective voices of MAG-Net members and allies are delivered in the form of Haikus. Together, these submissions represent our creative power, in a poetic form. We submit these words knowing that if you listen, they have the power to shape the future trajectory of our nation's telecommunications landscape.

The seventy-five poems submitted today articulate a clear vision for an Open Internet that includes a call for strong and protective rules on both wireless and wireline devices; no blocking of content, applications or services; no unreasonable discrimination or paid prioritization; and greater transparency with regard to network management and performance.

In closing we remind the Commission, and Chairman Wheeler specifically, that you are faced with a clear choice—will you take the necessary steps to equalize the Internet through reclassification under Title II Authority, or will you instead lock digital inequality in? Our members have used poetry to urge you to protect the Internet with Common Carrier status. Now it’s the FCC’s turn to use your authority and your voice as decision-makers to ensure our communities are armed with information, imagination and the ability to engage with one another, by protecting network neutrality.

The result will be a nation with a stronger and more equitable democracy.

Sincerely

[Signature]

amalia deloney
Policy Director

Enclosure
#INTERNETHAIKUS: ON NET NEUTRALITY

We believe the current Network Neutrality proposal, if implemented, will hurt smaller websites, independent artists, musicians and social justice advocates who use the open Internet to reach audiences not accessible in a heavily corporatized and consolidated media.

Hakim Bellamy
I tried to look up “Freedom” on the Internet but it was blocked. Damn.

Attack our right to Information... we say “Why Fight it? Wi-Fi it!”

The New Tiananmen
Information profiteers want to march tanks down our super highways

Vanishing Act
The Internet is one of those things you don’t miss until it is gone

Andrea Figueroa
Who, you may ask cares That Net Freedom won’t be free Collective arm raise.

amalia deloney
Brown neighborhoods mean, slower internet action. We say it’s not fair.

you have a desktop- I have cellphone, we race- bad rules give you head start

Angus West
Net neutrality and FCC Defining broadband, ignoring monopoly, Consumers left without choice

John Cone
Media is me Please let me know what we know The real web of we.

Jen Soriano
If the road to hell is paved with good intentions they’re go’n to heaven Don’t let comcast & verizon control our internet!

Open harmony Requires we break not remake The sound barrier

@kkbmanoa
Carriers charging For imaginary air By confusing you. Rich get preference to power, roads, water? No! Net neutrality.

Block the internet To the Joes and see new technologies emerge.

When internet’s not neutral, speech cannot be free. Treat us equally. #InternetHaiku

I still object to paying for television. Free “Wizard of Oz”! ;)

Corporation pimps-- net for a buck. Reject the-- Siren, FCC!

Arts & Democracy Project
We need to breathe air We need to tell stories. The Net is our common good.

Greenlining Institute
Network management is censorship under a thin veneer of lies.

Yvonne Hill
To take what you do not own is theft, simply put-- hands off, muthafa
#INTERNETHAIKUS: NET NEUTRALITY

We believe the current Network Neutrality proposal, if implemented, will hurt smaller websites, independent artists, musicians and social justice advocates who use the open Internet to reach audiences not accessible in a heavily corporatized and consolidated media.

Whitney Erin Boessel
hey, know what’s funny?
death of net neutrality!
…oh wait, no it’s not. :(  
bigger problems, yes—
but no net neutrality,
fixing gets harder.
crouched down, stroked modem.
“You’d never betray me, right?”
…nervous flash of lights.

Green-Diversity
World Internet porn
Our privacy not be crossed
Net Neutrality must be

A freedom Web.
Freedom surfs the Worldwide Web. Swoosh!
No Surveillance Websites.

Roscoe Germ
Research tickles fingers pink
Stroking notions worldwide
but for Error 404 #InternetHaiku

Erin Em
It’s become the peeps’.
No matter how it started.
Do not block the flow.
#InternetHaiku

Rich get preference/
to power, roads, water? No! /
Net neutrality.

Project Eureka
(“Net Neutrality”):
Freedom’s Spiders web.
NSA Surveillance net
Net Neutrality must be.
(“Freedom of Privacy”):
It is delightful
My privacy not be crossed
With ‘Freedom’ my sidekick.

Brandi Collins
Who is this #Alec?
And how come he kicks it with -
ALL the telecoms?

Desiree Fairouz
I saw you suffer,
Heard your hopes and your dreams.
I listen and act.

Faye B. Steuer
Small nonprofit group
Offers hope to those in need,
If they can log on.

Sea to shining sea.
No information limits?
FCC decides.

Five Commissioners
Hold Democracy’s future
In their mortal hands.

Julia Graber
The global brain just
got a lot dumber now that
Comcast rules its thoughts

Harley White
Tears for a tiered net...
May our haiku light a lamp
for free cyber flow...

@NowReviveNow
I cannot accept
they would sabotage our world
is it fear or greed?

@CursedDiamonds
Head of @FCC,
Long time cable lobbyist?
Vomit in my mouth.

The Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net) is a local-to-local advocacy network of over 170 grassroots organizations, working together for media change to end poverty, eliminate racism, and ensure human rights.

www.MAG-NET.org
#INTERNETHAIKUS: ON NET NEUTRALITY

We believe the current Network Neutrality proposal, if implemented, will hurt smaller websites, independent artists, musicians and social justice advocates who use the open Internet to reach audiences not accessible in a heavily corporatized and consolidated media.

Lola Marie
My freedom of speech?
Check Amazon and Craigslist.
For sale, by owner.

@booriotjezibel
My government lies
Sounds of sorrows creep in
The Internet lives!

Sharee Anne Gorman
dream of the monkey
new Prometheus re-bound
utopia lost

Susan Marie
Share Truth Without Any Fear
Others Follow Lead
Solidarity Is Reached

Carl Carpenter
A new humanity
collective intelligence
from our Internet

Merrill Cole
One hundred forty
tokens: speed train gets you to
our advertisers.

Janet Quezada
injustice blocked by
our linked hands across the web
share the codes for peace

MJBMargie
My country tis of
Thee dear FCC and me
We keep the net free

@Rustwolf
Commoditizing
the flow of information
one click at a time

Johnny Gallis
A majestic beast
He is an inspiration
Many doge. Such wow.

My heart beats quickly.
Facebook notification!
Sorrow! Candy Crush!

D-Rok Sanchez
The internet should,
stay free for us people,
not used to make money.

Anne Treacy
Redefine broadband
As utility to help
Rural US thrive

Clare Hecla
Corporate mindset
Translates to lack of access
I can has freedom?

Trish Steel
Information or
Telecommunication?
One public good choice

Fast lane or slow lane?
Let me check my pocketbook
Damn it I am screwed

I heard the slogan
Internet open to all
That was before greed

Fast lane or slow lane?
Cuz time is of the essence
Patiently waiting

Cindy Gomez-Schempp
Poetry is sweet
So is all our Internet
This is worth saving

Loading Loading Load
........ ........ .......... ....
What the future hold without
A #FreeNet for ALL

Jason Daniels
work nets our networks
open, access, struggle, change
now, keep it neutral

---

The Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net) is a local-to-local advocacy network of over 170 grassroots organizations, working together for media change to end poverty, eliminate racism, and ensure human rights.

www.MAG-NET.org
#INTERNETHAIKUS: ON NET NEUTRALITY

We believe the current Network Neutrality proposal, if implemented, will hurt smaller websites, independent artists, musicians and social justice advocates who use the open Internet to reach audiences not accessible in a heavily corporatized and consolidated media.

Emmanuel Ortiz
Net neutrality
is to corporate greed
What peace is to war.

Jesus Papoleto
Virtual Reality
Cried the Internet
“Democracy!” Liberty
unfriended Freedom

Sham-e-Ali Nayeem
everything can
not be owned, our breath a net
over time and space

Juan Rader Bas
Expression. That’s all.
Big brother wants to rule it.
Free speech. Write. Unite.

Adrienne Wiley-Thomas
perched in her apartment
chasing broadband like sugar
block by block denied

Kenji Liu
If neutrality
dies, this haiku won’t cross your
feed until next year.

Carl Carpenter
Humanity... new
Collective intelligence
From our Internet

@NonTweetable
Net Loss, Net Gain
The FCC caves
A digital caste system
Access should be free

Emory Malden
Dingo I am not
Says F.C.C. Tom Wheeler
Show us with action

Carlos Pareja
capture & release
stories in song & picture
keep our networks free

The Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net) is a local-to-local advocacy network of over 170 grassroots organizations, working together for media change to end poverty, eliminate racism, and ensure human rights.