Dear Editor:

I am writing to voice my support for net neutrality, because without it, I would not be able to send you this letter easily and for free. The dictionary defines net neutrality as “the principle that internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites”. Although the rules for net neutrality have been removed by the FCC, the internet is still an open space for all media users.

One claim that internet service providers have made is that net neutrality has hurt free speech and expression. The Internet Association states on their website that this claim is false because content and data have increased by over 1000% from 2009-2016. Data on the internet has, and will continue to, increase exponentially as more people join and post on social media. Net neutrality has enabled and fostered “democratic participation” for everyone who has access to the internet. If the Federal Communications Commission gets rid of net neutrality completely, it will mean that a lot of people’s opinions will not be heard and expressed. Who wants to be restrained by internet service providers? Not me or anyone I know.

The main reason that internet service providers want to end net neutrality is for the economic benefits. The end of net neutrality will cause the internet to become a monopoly for rich companies/providers. The LA Times mentions how “paid prioritization” could become a thing if net neutrality ends, due to larger content providers paying for higher data speeds and gaining access to more users. Smaller companies and new startups will get pushed to the back-burner and be stuck with slower internet and fewer users.

Net neutrality has allowed creativity and innovation to be fostered and developed. In a time where technology is evolving, we have to think about how the internet is evolving as well. New applications and websites have a chance to catch on because of the equal access to users. The best thing about the internet is that anyone can access it, regardless if they can pay for certain services or not. If net neutrality ends, the internet would be stuck with the same top social media sites, which would not propel us into the future.

I suggest that your readers become aware of the pros and cons of net neutrality because if the FCC completely dissembles net neutrality, consumers are the ones who are most hurt.