

Trump Just Put “Net Neutrality” on Death Row

By [Andrea Germanos](#)

Global Research, November 25, 2016

[Common Dreams](#) 23 November 2016

Region: [USA](#)

In-depth Report: [U.S. Elections](#)

Open internet advocates this week expressed concern that Present-elect [Donald Trump](#)'s two appointments to his Federal Communications Commission (FCC) transition team spell doom for [net neutrality](#).

That policy, [approved](#) in a 2015 FCC ruling, ensures a level playing field on the internet by preventing internet service providers (ISP) from creating “fast lanes” that give special treatment for content creators or web companies that pay extra fees. The ruling was hailed as “the biggest win for the public interest in the FCC’s history.”

The Trump transition site [announced](#) the appointments of former Verizon consultant Jeff Eisenach and former Sprint lobbyist Mark Jamison Monday. Like Trump, the two are critics of net neutrality.

“If President-elect Trump were the least bit sincere about his claims to ‘drain the swamp’ of lobbyists and special-interest operatives, he couldn’t have done much worse than selecting these two,” [writes](#) Timothy Karr, senior director of strategy at Free Press. He continues:

Both have deep financial ties to the telecom industry. They’ve spent time at the right-wing American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where so-called scholars [do double-time](#) as corporate lobbyists and consultants, rarely disclosing their conflicts of interest.

For its part, AEI has received support from the AT&T Foundation—the phone giant’s charitable arm. Previous clients Eisenach has consulted for [include Verizon](#), which had him on its payroll as he testified before Congress against issues like Net Neutrality. The New York Times made Eisenach the poster child for undue corporate influence over policymaking in a [lengthy investigative piece](#) that exposed his many conflicts.

Jamison directs the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida where he’s [extolled the virtues of competition-crushing media mergers](#) as innovative and good for the public. The Center doesn’t make public its full list of corporate sponsors, but its advocacy for every takeover involving AT&T is a good clue.

ThinkProgress also [notes](#) that

Eisenach was part of former President Ronald Reagan’s Federal Trade Commission and FCC transition teams. The resulting FCC agency repealed the Fairness Doctrine, which required media to portray contrasting perspectives in news coverage of public issues. Jamison, who also teaches at the University of Florida, has staunchly opposed the FCC’s policies to improve internet access

and options in low-income and rural areas.

Anne Jellema, CEO of the World Wide Web Foundation, also expressed concern, [telling](#) the *Guardian* that the “appointments certainly don’t look like good news for net neutrality.”

“But President-elect Trump has promised to be a ‘president for all Americans,’” she added. “If he’s serious about this promise, we trust the transition team will pay heed to the over three million comments submitted just last year by Americans of all political stripes calling for strong net neutrality, and will respect the recent decision by a federal appeals court to uphold the FCC’s Open Internet order.”

[According to](#) Chris Lewis, vice president at Public Knowledge, “if folks want to eliminate these very important consumer protections that are wildly popular across ideological lines, the question is how *are* they going to protect an open internet if they eliminate these rules?”

The original source of this article is [Common Dreams](#)
Copyright © [Andrea Germanos](#), [Common Dreams](#), 2016

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Andrea Germanos](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca