

Trump's FCC Chairman to End "Net Neutrality". The Plan to "Kill Digital Democracy"

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, November 22, 2017

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE:

stephenlendman.org

([Home - Stephen Lendman](#)).

Contact at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

*Battle lines are drawn. Trump's FCC chairman **Ajit Pai** is on record against Net Neutrality, saying its days are numbered.*

He took the first step. On November 22, he'll publish his plan to kill digital democracy, letting users access all content without restrictions, limitations, or discrimination, an online level playing field for everyone - on the 54th anniversary of Jack Kennedy's state-sponsored assassination.

His plan will let ISP giants establish toll roads or premium lanes, charge extra for speed and free and easy access, control content, as well as stifle dissent and independent thought - a dismal prospect.

His order will also ban states from imposing their own Net Neutrality rules, forbidding them from overriding federal regulations.

He'll reverse Title II classification of ISPs, classifying them as common carriers, restricting their actions, an "information service" classification replacing it. A federal court ruled it's less comprehensive, weakening consumer protections.

Pai issued a statement, saying

"(u)nder my proposal, the federal government will stop micromanaging the internet."

"Instead, the FCC would simply require internet service providers to be transparent about their practices so that consumers can buy the service plan that's best for them and entrepreneurs and other small businesses can have the technical information they need to innovate."

Free [Press.net](#) issued a stinging indictment of his policies since becoming FCC chairman in January, saying:

“(Y)ou’ve turned over our collective resource of the public broadcast airwaves to a company whose business model is built on tearing apart the fabric of communities by pushing racist fearmongering in the guise of news.”

“You granted Sinclair the ability to not simply broadcast this hate, but to maximize its already inflated profits by targeting its seeds of hate.”

“You’ve removed the last barrier preventing one voice from monopolizing every aspect of news production in America’s smaller communities, ensuring future generations will remain ignorant of the corruption taking place around them.”

“You’ve ripped away a literal lifeline to the world for millions of families struggling in ways you will never understand.”

“You’ve taken away basic connectivity to the forgotten seniors who worked their entire lives only to find themselves in abject poverty, failed by politicians like you who pay them cynical lip service and then spit on them when the cameras are off.”

“And you’re on the verge of turning over control of the internet on-ramps to a handful of companies so they can steal even more from their captured customers, and cut them off from the promise of an open and connected world.”

“You did all of this not for any legitimate public-policy reason; your actions will move us further from your own stated goals.”

“No, you are cruelly punishing the public and enriching the already fabulously wealthy in service of a radical and immoral ideology.”

Trump’s FCC has three Republican and two Democrat commissioners. Dem **Jessica Rosenworcel** blasted Pai’s plan, saying it

“hands broadband providers the power to decide what voices to amplify, which sites we can visit, what connections we can make, and what communities we create.”

“It throttles access, stalls opportunity, and censors content.” It’s an affront “to the millions of Americans who use the Internet every day.”

Dem commissioner **Mignon Clyburn** said

Pai’s rules “would dismantle net neutrality as we know it by giving the green light to our nation’s largest broadband providers to engage in anti-consumer practices, including blocking, slowing down traffic, and paid prioritization of online applications and services.”

On December 14, FCC commissioners will vote on Pai’s plan, approval almost certain with a GOP majority.

Rules he’ll establish ISP giants like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon are designed exclusively for maximum profit-making, not consumer protections or service the way it should be for everyone.

Once changes are made and take effect, likely in January, the Internet won't resemble the way it is now.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation said Pai's plan "invites a future where only the largest Internet, cable, and telephone companies survive, while every start-up, small business, and new innovator is crowded out – and the voices of nonprofits and ordinary individuals are suppressed."

"Costs will go up, as ISPs take advantage of monopoly power to raise rates on edge providers and consumers alike."

"The FCC (is) abdicat(ing) a fundamental responsibility" to assure competition, along with "protect(ing) consumer" rights.

ACLU policy analyst **Jay Stanley** warned that

"(g)utting net neutrality will have a devastating effect on free speech online. Without it, gateway corporations like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T will have too much power to mess with the free flow of information."

Once voted on and approved, new policies will be published in the Federal Register and take effect in weeks.

Congressional legislation can rescind them – unlikely with GOP control and Trump as president. Whether virtually certain court battles can change things remains to be seen.

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE: stephenlendman.org ([Home – Stephen Lendman](http://stephenlendman.org)). Contact at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](http://stephenlendman.org), Global Research, 2017

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Stephen Lendman](#)**

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached

at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."
<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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