

# Angel L Lopez Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 7187

February 9, 2022

To the House Committee on Internet, Innovation, & Technology,

My name is Angel Lopez. I am a resident of the Silver Lake Neighborhood in Providence, and a small business owner. I write to you all today in opposition to House Bill 7187. This bill will alter the existing Community Television Antenna Systems Law with a Net Neutrality waiver for Internet Service Providers. Below is a screenshot I took on 2/7/22. It is a definition of Net Neutrality. I called out the last sentence which describes the essence of Net Neutrality.



## net neutrality noun

Save Word

### Definition of *net neutrality*

: the idea, principle, or requirement that Internet service providers should or must treat all Internet data as the same regardless of its kind, source, or destination  
// ... a philosophical contest that's being fought under the banner of "*net neutrality*," a slogan that inspires rhetorical devotion but eludes precise definition. Broadly, it means everything on the Internet should be equally accessible—that the Internet should be a place where great ideas compete on equal terms with big money.  
— Sarah Rabil

"The internet should be a place where great Ideas compete on equal terms with big money"  
— Sarah Rabil

Page 2 lines 26 thru 28 of H7187 explains that, the state can waive the ban on paid prioritization for a “particular purchased or funded Internet access services if the state determines that the practice is in the public interest, promotes public safety, or is otherwise not inconsistent with the purpose of this chapter”. There are devices currently collocated on utility poles all over Providence and other areas in this state enabled by a particular purchased service to experiment, irradiate children, and continually disadvantage entire communities in. It does not provide internet to the residents and approval of this bill would make these devices permanent and easier to place outside your homes.

I have attempted to obtain information regarding the purpose, functionality, and contracts that allow these devices to pop up around my community since 2019. I have yet to obtain any answer or explanation, which I suspect is due to the privatization of public rights-of-way of telephone poles that continues to spread across this state. I have included several photos of these devices below.

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**None of these devices or edge service providers who operate them deserve a green light to continue its corporate and surveillance abuse on communities comprised mostly of Black Indigenous and People of Color and to collocate them outside homes, places of worship, and schools anywhere in this state.**

**I ask all serving on this committee to address and investigate the existence and impacts of these devices, instead of approving a Net Neutrality waiver that will enable the continued abuse of your budget, communities, and public rights-of-way. Please oppose House Bill 7187.**

**Thank You for Reading,**

**Angel Lopez**

***Providence, RI 02909***