

Organizations and Coalitions Expressing Support of Major Pieces of the Bill

Labor: Communications Workers of America

Educational Organizations: National Education Association (NEA) - National Association of School Boards

Business Community: US Chamber of Commerce - National Black Chamber of Commerce - US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Women Impacting Public Policy

Advocacy for the Disabled Community: American Association of People with Disabilities

Religious and Social: Christian Musician Publishers Association - Rainbow PUSH Coalition - League of United Latin American Citizens

Entertainment: Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) - Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)

Communications Industry: U.S. Telecommunications Association (USTA) - National Cable Telecommunications Association (NCTA) - Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) - Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) - Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) - National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) - Voice on the Net Coalition (VON)

Military Organizations: The Military Coalition - American Legion - Veterans of Foreign Wars - Naval Reserve Association - Naval Enlisted Reserve Association - Association of the United States Army - Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

For a complete list of supporters please visit www.commerce.senate.gov.

INSIGHT ON NET NEUTRALITY

“If you want innovation on the Internet, you need better pipes: ones that are faster, less susceptible to hackers and spammers, or smarter in ways that nobody has yet thought of. The lack of incentives for pipe innovation is more pressing than the lack of incentives to create new Web services.”

The Washington Post, Editorial, June 12, 2006

“Congress could unwittingly interfere with the development of a more robust Internet, capable of delivering more multimedia, faster, in two directions.”

The Oregonian, Editorial, May 15, 2006

“We can only hope [Members of Congress] don't compromise the future of this vital industry by falling for the rhetoric of Net Neutrality. After all, what network operator would be silly enough to keep investing billions in network innovations if the fruits of its innovation had to be given away at below cost?”

The Wall Street Journal, Steve Forbes, June 12, 2006

“Congress should let the marketplace develop rather than constrain it with regulation. Lawmakers should certainly be mindful of unintended consequences. The Interstate Commerce Commission's regulations on transportation lingered for decades after their usefulness expired. Any neutrality regulations passed by Congress this year are likely to have a similarly dismal future. Choice and competition will do a better job of protecting Internet consumers than government bureaucrats ever have.”

The New York Times, Timothy Lee, August 3, 2006

“Net neutrality law is at best unnecessary, at worst a bottleneck to development. A less-regulated Internet will give those providers the ability to build ultra-high-speed connections for customers that need them for as-yet unknown applications.”

USA Today, July 20, 2006, Andrew Kantor

“The Internet has flourished under minimal regulation. Its development has been driven by the demands of the market rather than the dictates of the government. That's reason enough for Congress not to impose a sweeping regulation to solve a problem that hasn't materialized.”

Orlando Sentinel, Editorial, July 24, 2006

“The Internet does not need the heavy-handed regulation that some in Congress propose. The Internet has fared quite nicely under a light regulatory touch as it has developed into the most robust, efficient and creative medium the world has ever known. How do consumers benefit when innovation at one end of the highway is snarled because of a misguided attempt to protect it at the other?”

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Editorial, July 21, 2006

Senate Communications Act of 2006



United States Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
202-224-1251

WAR ON TERRORISM

- ~ Helps reduce phone rates for troops deployed overseas and their families.
- ~ Immediately provides \$1 billion in grants for interoperable radios to help police, firemen, and medical emergency responders communicate during a natural disaster or terrorist attack.
- ~ Creates caches of emergency communications equipment in every state.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM

- ~ Ensures that all Americans have access to affordable communications through the universal service fund. It supports broadband service for schools, libraries, telemedicine and the poor.
- ~ Stabilizes the universal service fund and places all service providers on a level playing field. At the same time, the accountability of the program is enhanced by requiring audits and waste, fraud and abuse review.
- ~ Creates a new broadband fund of \$500 million a year to provide broadband to unserved areas.
- ~ Extends disabilities access requirements for the blind and hearing impaired to Voice Over the Internet (VoIP).
- ~ Makes rural pharmacies eligible for broadband discounts under the Rural Health Care Universal Service Program. This money will help rural Americans avoid tragic medication errors and achieve the goal of e-prescriptions for all pharmacies by 2010.

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE IN VIDEO

- ~ Stimulates competition for video programming service, which will provide more program choices for consumers and cut cable rates as much as 50%.
- ~ Streamlines the process for phone companies to obtain franchises from thousands of local governments nationwide, while protecting the franchise fees local governments receive.

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

- ~ Permits municipalities to offer broadband service throughout America in both urban and rural communities, including free service.

WIRELESS INNOVATION NETWORKS

- ~ Allows free use of vacant TV spectrum to provide cheap broadband service.
- ~ Requires the FCC to protect broadcasters from harmful interference from this new broadband service.

DIGITAL TELEVISION

- ~ Requires Public Service Announcements to inform Americans about the upcoming DTV transition in 2009 when analog TVs will no longer work without a set top box, cable, or satellite connection.
- ~ Requires labels on analog-only TVs (in English and Spanish) to inform consumers about the transition and the availability of reduced cost set top boxes.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

- ~ Protects children from pornography. Requires warning labels on web pages offering pornographic content, to make it easier for parents to employ filtering technology to block such sites from their computers.

VIDEO CONTENT

- ~ Protects digital programs broadcast on TV and on the radio from being stolen and redistributed over the Internet.
- ~ Protects intellectual property rights to movies, songs and TV shows.

NET NEUTRALITY

- ~ Creates the Internet Consumer Bill of Rights.
- ~ Ensures that Internet companies cannot block websites or email.
- ~ Permits consumers to purchase broadband service without having to purchase other services the company offers, like cable or phone service.

ADDITIONAL CONSUMER BENEFITS

- ~ Bans any new taxes on mobile phones for three years.
- ~ Permanently bans states from taxing the Internet.
- ~ Protects consumers with Truth in Caller ID provisions by preventing false names and numbers from appearing on Caller ID.
- ~ Establishes a consumer advocate at the Federal Communications Commission.