

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: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - 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)

Communication 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

“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

“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

“Net neutrality proposals are too ‘hazy’ and could create a ‘slippery slope’ to even broader regulations. The most efficient way to deal with allegations of “real anticompetitive behavior” is through traditional antitrust and consumer protection avenues at agencies like the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission.”

CNET.COM, July 17, 2006, Dave Farber

Senate Communications Bill



United States Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK)

WAR ON TERRORISM

- ~ Helps reduce phone rates for troops deployed overseas and their families.
- ~ Immediately provides \$1 billion in grants to help police, firemen, paramedics and other first responders to communicate during a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM

- ~ Universal service ensures that all Americans have access to affordable communications. It also supports broadband service for schools and libraries and for telemedicine.
- ~ Stabilizes the universal service fund and places all service providers on a level playing field. At the same time, the integration and accountability of the program are 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. (within the Universal Service fund)

~Extends disabilities access requirements to IP-enabled voice services and to manufacturers of IP-enabled voice services and equipment.

~ 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 will help achieve the goal of e-prescriptions for all pharmacies by 2010.

VIDEO CONTENT

- ~ Reinstates FCC's Video Flag rules limiting indiscriminate redistribution of digital video broadcast content over the Internet.

~ Requires development of rules to protect digital audio content.

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE IN VIDEO

~ Stimulates competition and new services in video programming market, which will reduce cable rates and provide more choices for consumers.

~ Streamlines and standardizes the process for phone companies and other new entrants to obtain franchises from thousands of local governments nationwide.

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

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

WIRELESS INNOVATION NETWORKS

~ Promotes the use of unlicensed wireless devices to offer inexpensive broadband services using vacant broadcast spectrum.

~ Requires the FCC to enhance its interference protections to protect broadcasters.

~ Will stimulate additional broadband service, especially in rural areas.

DIGITAL TELEVISION

~ Requires Public Service Announcements to inform Americans about upcoming DTV transition and to minimize the impact on those who continue to view analog-only television.

~ Requires labels on analog-only televisions (in English and Spanish) to inform consumers about the transition.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

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

NET NEUTRALITY

- ~ Creates the Internet Consumer Bill of Rights.
- ~ Establishes consumer rights to ensure that Internet companies cannot undermine a consumers access and utilization of the Internet.

~ Permits consumers to purchase broadband service without having to purchase other services, like cable or phone service, from the broadband service provider.

ADDITIONAL CONSUMER BENEFITS

~ Encourages continued growth and innovation in wireless industry by protecting industry from new discriminatory taxes on mobile phones for three years.

~ Requires FCC to gather more information concerning broadband deployment.

~ Permanently prohibits states from singling out Internet access services for taxes.

~ Protects consumers with Truth in Caller ID provisions preventing false names and numbers from appearing on caller ID services.
