



March 11, 2008

Member of Congress
THE CAPITOL
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Net Neutrality and HR 5353 ("The Internet Freedom Preservation Act")

Dear Member of Congress:

As you may know, legislation was recently introduced in the House, H.R. 5353, The Internet Freedom Preservation Act, that would significantly change the posture regulators and policymakers alike have held towards the broadband marketplace over the last 20 years. As opposed to the successful "hands off" approach that has guided unprecedented growth of broadband and broadband applications in this country, H.R. 5353 seeks to implement restrictive Internet regulations that will inhibit deployment, raise costs for consumers, and effectively reduce the online experience for consumers.

As you and other lawmakers consider regulation of the Internet, I urge you to recognize the serious problems these new restrictions will cause:

Net Neutrality is not a vehicle to help America reach its national broadband goals. Net Neutrality does not create new high-speed choices. It will not bring prices down or improve web-surfing speeds. It will, however, restrict an innovative and competitive market from providing faster, more affordable broadband choices for all Americans.

Net Neutrality will stop progress in closing the digital divide. Since 2005, there has been astonishing broadband growth in historically underserved communities. But by shifting deployment costs onto Internet users, Net Neutrality threatens this trend – at precisely the time when we're making so much progress!

Net Neutrality will harm rural residents. Rural America has an urgent need for high-speed web access. But Net Neutrality's legal uncertainties and regulatory delays will keep rural broadband scarce and expensive. As a senior official with the 700,000-member Communications Workers of America has said, "Those who advocate for so-called Net Neutrality are in fact making sure that no such network gets built for the foreseeable future and rural America gets left further behind."

On the two most important issues for tomorrow's Internet – who's going to use it and how much will it cost – Net Neutrality undermines our current progress and takes us in the wrong direction.

We encourage you to take the time to read the attached sample of filings from a number of business, industry, and diversity groups who have filed at the FCC on their Notice Of Inquiry on Broadband Practices. We believe you will find a number of leading groups concerned about the risks of increased regulation on the Internet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McCurry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike McCurry
Co-chairman
Hands Off the Internet

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Wolf, Esq.
Co-chairman
Hands Off the Internet