

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 2, 2006

**Dear Chairman Barton, Ranking Member Dingell and Members of the Committee:**

We are a broad based group of Internet consumers, content providers, service, device and application companies that believe that unless Congress acts, the Internet is at risk of losing the openness that has made it an engine for phenomenal social and economic growth. We are writing to urge that Congress take steps now to preserve this fundamental underpinning of the Internet and to assure the Internet remains a platform open to innovation and progress.

Specifically, as Congress considers legislation to update the nation's telecommunications policy, it must recognize that the Internet's open architecture and the pre-existing legal framework that created the Internet should not be just "hoped for" in a broadband world. The essential elements must be guaranteed by a meaningful and enforceable net neutrality requirement.

The open architecture of the Internet has always let providers, as well as individual innovators, share, offer and create the content, devices, applications, and services that the marketplace desires. Consumers in the marketplace, and not network operators, should decide what content and services succeed or fail. The end-to-end design of the Internet was made possible by the non-discriminatory framework that has long been the bedrock of U.S. telecommunications policy. It is this framework that has prevented gatekeepers on the Internet and guaranteed the innovation and economic success that has driven the American economy over the past decade.

While it is appropriate for Congress to develop new legislation to promote competition among broadband networks, it must also ensure that consumers and providers continue to have the right to use those networks to send and receive content, and to use applications and services, without interference by network operators. As Internet pioneer Vint Cerf said, the Internet is, and must remain, "innovation without permission".

We stand ready to work with you to pass legislation that will continue the successful legal policies that are essential to allowing the broadband Internet to thrive.

Sincerely,

AARP	eBrands Commerce Group	Match.com
Adaptive Marketing LLC	Educause	Media Access Project
Adobe	Electronic Retailing Association	Media Partners Worldwide
Aegon Direct Marketing Services, Inc.	Entertainment Publications	Mercury Media
Amazon.com	Evite.com	Merrick Group
American Association of Libraries	Excite	Microsoft
American Homeowners	Expedia	Nationalblinds.com
AngleBeds.com	Free Press	NetCoalition
Ask.com	Gifts.com	Organize.com
Association of Research Libraries	Google	Product Partners LLC
Bloglines	Hawthorne Direct	Public Knowledge
Cendant	Home Shopping Network	Pulver.com
Circumedia LLC	Hotels.com	RealEstate.com
CitySearch	Hotwire	Savvier
COMPTEL	IAC/InterActiveCorp	ServiceMagic
Consumer Electronics Association	Iceland Health Inc.	Skype
Consumer Federation of America	iNest	Sling Media Inc.
Dave Petitto Direct	InPulse Response	Ticketmaster
Digital Media Association	Interactive Travel Services Association	TiVO
Downstream	Internet2	Tonystickets.com
Dreamsleep.com	iWon	Tranquilitymattress.com
Dresses.com	Jewelry Television	Travelocity
EarthLink	LendingTree	US PIRG
eBay	Livemercial	Yahoo!