

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

March 1, 2006

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and 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

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,

Aegon Direct Marketing Services, Inc.  
Adaptive Marketing LLC  
Amazon.com  
American Association of Libraries  
AngleBeds.com  
Ask.com  
Association of Research Libraries  
Bloglines  
Cendant  
Circumedia LLC  
CitySearch  
COMPTEL  
Consumer Electronics Association  
Consumer Federation of America  
Downstream  
Dreamsleep.com  
Dresses.com  
EarthLink  
eBay  
eBrands Commerce Group  
Educause  
Electronic Retailing Association  
Entertainment Publications  
Evite.com  
Excite  
Expedia  
Free Press  
Gifts.com  
Google  
Hawthorne Direct  
Home Shopping Network  
Hotels.com

Hotwire  
IAC/InterActiveCorp  
Iceland Health Inc.  
iNest  
InPulse Response  
Interactive Travel Services Association  
Internet2  
iWon  
LendingTree  
Livemercial  
Match.com  
Media Access Project  
Media Partners Worldwide  
Mercury Media  
Merrick Group  
Microsoft  
Nationalblinds.com  
NetCoalition  
Product Partners LLC  
Public Knowledge  
Pulver.com  
RealEstate.com  
Savvier  
ServiceMagic  
Skype  
Sling Media Inc.  
Ticketmaster  
TiVO  
Tonystickets.com  
Tranquilitymattress.com  
Travelocity  
Yahoo!