



Thomas A. Schatz  
President

February 5, 2007

The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I ask that you oppose S. 215, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act. Ironically, the bill's title belies what the legislation would actually do if enacted.

The emergence of the Internet as a major tool for American economic growth owes a great deal to the private sector and not governmental intervention. Previous Congresses have not burdened this promising technology with restrictive and unnecessary regulations. It is important to continue this pro-growth, free-market philosophy by rejecting efforts to implement "net neutrality."

The supposed purpose of net neutrality is to promote innovation by putting constraints on service providers that may give priority to one kind of traffic over another according to its content or what one is willing to pay for increased accessibility and faster service. Unfortunately, restricting this kind of activity would hinder further improvements and finding solutions to managing traffic flow on the Internet while increasing its value for everyone. Simply put, the Internet is doing well because competition works. Any attempt to regulate the Internet would create an unneeded layer of government bureaucracy and impose controls on a technology that has thrived precisely because regulations have been absent.

Editorial voices on op-ed pages as diverse as those of the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* have criticized net neutrality as a false issue. Last June, the *Washington Post* editorialized, "The weakest aspect of the neutrality case is that the dangers it alleges are speculative. It seems unlikely that broadband providers will degrade Web services that people want and far more likely that they will use non-neutrality to charge for upgrading services that depend on fast and reliable delivery, such as streaming high-definition video or relaying data from heart monitors." CCAGW agrees with the *Post* that Congress should not burden the Internet with pre-emptive regulation.

Net neutrality is nothing but a solution looking for a problem. Congress should be encouraging, not discouraging, competition. All votes on this legislation will be among those considered for CCAGW's *2007 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

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

1301 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-467-5300