

*United States Senate*  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1604

March 3, 2008

Dear Colleague,

Once again, proponents of so-called “network neutrality” are asking that we put aside our successful current policy of permitting competitive market forces to operate and replace it with heavy-handed government regulation of the Internet. There has been no market failure to warrant imposing the burdensome network-neutrality mandates that advocates are demanding. The regulations being called for will harm consumers by slowing broadband deployment and the network upgrades necessary to manage the exponential growth in bandwidth-intensive Internet applications such as online video and gaming.

Our nation’s telephone, cable, satellite, and wireless companies have spent billions of dollars on building and upgrading broadband infrastructure, and they plan to continue investing in their networks. The benefits Americans are receiving as a result of these investments are obvious. We are witnessing accelerated broadband deployment, which gives consumers a faster Internet as well as access to premium online services such as Internet-based television. Our current approach of not regulating the Internet has given broadband service providers much-needed flexibility to experiment with various business models to meet the needs and desires of their customers. Again, this approach has been successful, and lacking any evidence of market failure, now is not the time for government bureaucracies to begin questioning how broadband service providers manage their networks – nor is it necessary for Congress to intervene.

It must be recognized that “network neutrality” is anything but neutral. In practice, it amounts to the government, rather than competitive markets, selecting which business model best suits the industry. Experience has shown that the market is working in meeting customer demand and delivering the best Internet experience technologically possible.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback  
United States Senator