



March 2, 2006

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 are very pleased that you have introduced legislation to protect the openness of the Internet. Higher education depends upon an open Internet to accomplish its mission of promoting educational opportunity for all Americans. The Internet has become the most valuable medium for distance learning, scientific research, telemedicine, and many other educational purposes. Broadband Internet service allows rural students to take music classes from the best symphony conductors, permits grammar school students to participate in virtual undersea expeditions, and permits doctors in remote locations to share X-rays and monitor their patients in real-time.

But the Internet can only serve these goals if it remains open and available to all users, educators and innovators. Your legislation ensures that network operators do not act as gatekeepers by blocking, screening or discriminating against certain kinds of traffic. This bill is an important step toward guaranteeing that the Internet will remain open and available to all Americans. We appreciate your efforts and we look forward to working with you and Members on both sides of the aisle on this issue in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brian L. Hawkins'.

Brian Hawkins, President  
EDUCAUSE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Doug P. Van Houweling'.

Doug Van Houweling, President and CEO  
Internet2