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Contacts:

Wendy Wigen  
Policy Analyst  
EDUCAUSE  
wwigen@educause.edu

Gary Bachula  
Vice President for External Relations  
Internet2  
gbachula@internet2.edu  
202-331-5373

Peter DeBlois  
Director of Communications and Publishing EDUCAUSE  
pdeblois@educause.edu  
303-544-5665

Lauren Rotman  
Media Relations Manager  
Internet2  
lauren@internet2.edu  
202-331-5345

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EDUCAUSE AND INTERNET2 COMMEND SENATOR WYDEN BILL TO PROTECT AN OPEN  
INTERNET AND NET NEUTRALITY

Bill Seeks to Safeguard Founding Internet Principles to Ensure  
Continued U.S. Innovation

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Washington, D.C., and Ann Arbor, Mich., March 3, 2006--EDUCAUSE and Internet2 have praised Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) for his leading effort to safeguard the founding Internet principle of "net neutrality" in his recently introduced Internet Non-Discrimination Act of 2006. Wyden's bill takes an informed approach to protecting the openness of the Internet which will ensure continued U.S. innovation and leadership in the global Internet economy and allow U.S. citizens the right to control their own Internet experiences.

In a letter to Wyden, EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins and Internet2 President and CEO Doug Van Houweling said, "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."

Wyden's bill makes certain that network operators do not act as gatekeepers by blocking, screening, or discriminating against certain

kinds of Internet traffic or creating segregated Internet highways for their own preferred services. Internet2's experience in deploying advanced networks that support high-end broadband services shows that keeping networks open, inexpensive, and simple is better than costly, complex, and closed, as many network operators are now proposing. This bill is an important step toward guaranteeing that the Internet will remain open and available to all Americans, keeping in step with the international community.

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 look forward to working with Senator Wyden and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on this issue in the coming months.

Learn more about the importance of this issue to higher education and the public at the EDUCAUSE Net Neutrality resource site at <http://www.educause.edu/netneutrality>