



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

President

March 6, 2006

The Honorable Joe Barton
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barton and Ranking Member Dingell:

I write on behalf of the Association of American Universities, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, EDUCAUSE, and Internet2 to ask you to include a strong provision preserving net neutrality in legislation you develop to update the nation's telecommunications policy. The power of the Internet to support innovation and economic growth and to promote new forms of communication and social services depends on its open architecture.

Net neutrality will be important for colleges and universities as they develop new ways to deliver multimedia instructional materials to students, including students off campus and in rural areas. University research laboratories are developing next-generation Internet technologies that will drive the Internet economy; these technologies will require an open and accessible Internet to develop and flourish.

We understand the need for owners of broadband networks to be able to manage traffic on their networks by controlling congestion, preventing viruses and other illegal uses, and appropriately maintaining their systems. However, for the Internet to continue to serve as a powerful force for innovation, it is imperative that it remain open on a non-discriminatory basis to all lawful content, information, applications, and equipment. A strong and enforceable net neutrality provision will accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nils Hasselmo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nils Hasselmo
President

Cc: Members of Committee on Energy and Commerce