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APT SUPPORTS OPEN AND INTELLIGENT NETWORKS

Public Interest Group Urges Congress to Reject Network Neutrality Amendments that could Hamstring the Internet

Washington, DC – April 25, 2006. As the House Energy & Commerce Committee continues its consideration of legislation to streamline video franchising, the Alliance for Public Technology urged it to reject efforts to limit the vitality and robustness of the networks that deliver advanced services to consumers, and issued the following statement:

“The Alliance for Public Technology came into being with a vision of an ‘Intelligent Network’ serving all citizens with new and innovative services. ‘We explicitly rejected then and now the goal of a ‘dumb’ network, which restricts all intelligence and innovation to the network’s edges,’ said Dr. Barbara O’Connor, Director of the Institute for the Study of Politics and Media, California State University, Sacramento, and Founding Chair of APT. ‘We believe that it is possible and desirable to have networks that are both open and intelligent, over which network providers as well as unaffiliated entities have the flexibility and incentive to innovate and deploy advanced services. At the same time, consumers must have the right and ability to reach any provider they choose and any service they want, and APT has long supported policies that allow consumers to have unfettered access to each other and to the providers of their choice.’

Such policies do not require that network providers be limited in their ability to innovate and offer various arrangements to ISPs or service providers. Indeed, APT believes that consumers can benefit from such arrangements, under which desirable new services often are offered earlier and at more affordable prices than might otherwise be the case.

‘APT believes that it is too early in the evolution of truly high speed networks for the government to intervene through ‘network neutrality’ legislation. Instead, the best approach for now is for our policy makers to proceed with caution,’ said Dr. Max Stachura, MD, President of APT’s Board of Directors. ‘With appropriate oversight of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission should continue to be the primary venue in which our evolving policies on network neutrality are shaped and the appropriate means of enforcing these concepts are refined.’”

About APT

The Alliance for Public Technology is a nonprofit membership organization based in Washington, D.C., which was founded in 1989 to foster public policies that ensure access to advanced telecommunications technologies for all Americans. For additional information, please contact Dan Phythyon at 202-263-2970 or dphythyon@apt.org.

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