



FreedomWorks

April 24, 2006

FreedomWorks Targets Dangerous Network Neutrality Effort

New Coalition for Internet Freedom ironically proposes increased government regulation of the internet.

Contact: Adam Brandon

Phone: (202) 942-7698

Email: abrandon@freedomworks.org

Washington, D.C. - In response to today's launch of the "Save the Internet" Coalition, a misguided group of leftist organizations selling network neutrality legislation as a "First Amendment for the Internet," FreedomWorks is refocusing its long-standing campaign to bring about free-market telecommunications reform. The campaign aims to bring truth and clarity to the too-often misunderstood concept of net neutrality.

Net neutrality legislation would grant the federal government broad power to dictate how businesses offer Internet service. FreedomWorks finds this violation of fundamental property rights alarming. Additionally, FreedomWorks has grave concerns that, if enacted, net neutrality provisions would significantly deter investment in exciting new technologies that offer a faster, higher-quality Internet experience, thus ultimately hurting the consumer.

To combat the misinformation that groups such as "Save the Internet" have propagated regarding net neutrality, FreedomWorks is taking a multi-pronged approach to prevent net neutrality regulations including: directing its nationwide of army of more than 800,000 volunteer activists to call and email their members of Congress; conducting one-on-one hill staff and member education with FreedomWorks chief economist Wayne Brough and chairman Dick Arney; and placing targeted print and Internet advertisements.

FreedomWorks has a more than 20-year history on free-market technology issues. Most recently, it was active in several states for its "Choose Your Cable" campaign—a grassroots effort to streamline barriers to entry that now exist in the video programming—more commonly known as "cable TV"—market.

FreedomWorks Chairman Dick Arney commented:

"Net neutrality allows the government to run all over basic property rights in classic, Kelo fashion while expanding regulation in the telecommunications arena. Having the government tell a cable or phone company how to manage the pipes that offer their clients Internet service would fare no better than having the government tell Wal-Mart how to stock its lawn and garden department.

As Congress takes up the important issue of telecommunications reform, it must avoid the false idea that net neutrality represents Internet freedom. Nothing could be further from the truth; net neutrality is nothing more than "Internet regulation."

-30-