



May 12, 2006

Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
508 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Senator,

Our nation is seeing a remarkable growth in Hispanic-owned businesses. Everywhere you look, Hispanics are starting or growing businesses that employ millions of Americans. In many cases, these businesses are thriving thanks to advances in communications technology. New wire line and wireless networks, and the explosion in broadband Internet access, have made it easier to open a business and meet the needs of customers and Hispanic communities.

Congress is currently considering possible changes to our nation's telecommunications laws. Unfortunately, in both the House and the Senate, there are now troubling proposals to regulate the Internet. These proposals are dressed up in a label that sounds consumer-friendly: "network neutrality." But that label hides what are fundamentally dangerous new regulations that could slow down the broadband explosion and harm its value to small businesses. Telecommunications markets should be driven by consumer demand, advances in technology, and competition not by government regulation. Not only will the concept itself hurt the development of future Internet services by preventing network providers from having the capital necessary to innovate, it could lead to increased cost for our businesses as internet users.

Now is not the time to introduce rules that would inflict regulatory uncertainty, stifle investment, slow the development of new technologies, and inhibit U.S. economic development and competitiveness. Today, phone companies, cable companies, wireless companies, satellite companies, and others are competing or getting ready to compete in broadband. These networks will cost many billions to deploy, expand, and improve, as Americans demand faster speeds and lower prices.

In crafting legislation, Congress needs to create incentives for entrepreneurs to enter the broadband market or for today's companies to invest in faster and more reliable broadband networks. We need communications policies that promote more investment and more choice in broadband networks.

We urge you to oppose counterproductive "network neutrality" regulations, and to continue the "hands-off" policies that have allowed broadband technology to enter the market place.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Barrera
President and CEO