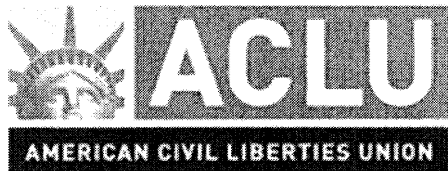


WASHINGTON
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE



January 24, 2007

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
154 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: **Support for S. 215, "The Internet Freedom Preservation Act," To Restore Net Neutrality Protections**

Dear Senator Dorgan and Senator Snowe:

On behalf of the ACLU, a non-partisan organization with hundreds of thousands of activists and members and 53 affiliates nationwide, we are writing to express our support for your bipartisan bill, S. 215, "The Internet Freedom Preservation Act."

S. 215 would reinstate Network Neutrality ("Net Neutrality") protections in place before June 2005. The bill requires that any content, application, or service offered through the Internet be provided on a basis that is "reasonable and non-discriminatory." It further prohibits network providers from blocking or degrading lawful Internet content. S. 215 also leaves the choice of equipment to access Internet gateways squarely in the hands of consumers, where it rightfully belongs.

In contrast, a bill offered in the 109th Congress, S. 2686, "The Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006" or Stevens bill, provided no protection for Internet users and entrepreneurs. Instead, it merely included a toothless requirement that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) study the Internet market for five years and file annual reports to Congress on the activities of network providers. The Stevens bill would have given network providers *carte blanche* to engage in content and access discrimination. Nothing in the Stevens bill prevented network providers from blocking lawful content with