

# NET NEUTRALITY and the Future of the Internet

- **CONGRESS IS PUSHING** legislation which would curtail **citizen choice on the Internet** - setting aside principles of **network neutrality** and allowing big Internet providers to divide web destinations into fast and slow lanes based on their own business deals - undermining our choice and our freedom, and stymieing the development of new web technologies by creating new barriers to entry.
- **ALONG THE WAY**, the new rules would also let telecom companies continue discriminatory 'redlining' practices, **delaying or denying new high-tech services** to low income and rural areas.
- **FINALLY**, the new rules would put the squeeze on local educational and community cable TV production, by **quashing locally-negotiated franchises** for video services.

**Don't let Congress sell out our communications future. ACT NOW!**



*Reclaim the Media ([reclaimthedia.org](http://reclaimthedia.org)) is a co-organizer of the national [savetheinternet.org](http://savetheinternet.org) and [saveaccess.org](http://saveaccess.org) coalitions.*

## PROTECT INTERNET FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND COMMUNITY TELEVISION.

The Senate is now considering a major telecommunications bill which would demolish the principle of 'network neutrality,' or Internet freedom of choice. Like the House of Representatives' COPE Act (passed in June), Ted Stevens' bill would allow Internet providers to control our Internet traffic to an unprecedented degree. By allowing businesses to buy access to you and other Internet consumer/citizens, the new law would make a mockery of online freedom of choice - **limiting consumer options** and giving Comcast, Qwest and their "competitors" the right to block or slow down any site at will.

The Telecom companies that stand to gain from these bills are spending millions on an **information war**, with fake grassroots campaigns (like "handsoff.org") and TV/online ads designed to confuse citizens and our representatives. Don't be fooled! Here's some of what could happen if these bills become law:

- **Parents and children** enter a world where the Internet becomes ever more highly commercialized, and where the price of access skyrockets despite increased 'competition.'
- **Ipod users** find that their ISP slows down access to their favorite source for music/video downloads, directing them instead to a favored rival company.
- **Small businesses** have fewer choices for telephone, TV and online services, as the business giants bundle products and shut out small competitors.
- **Citizen journalists** are unable to make full, free use of available technology as community TV is starved for life, and costs skyrocket for bloggers seeking to post video and audio clips on grassroots websites.

## TAKE ACTION!

**UPDATE: Senator Ted Stevens** has introduced a new version of his Telecom bill - still lacking protections for net neutrality. **Meanwhile, the Congressional GOP leadership** has made it clear that even if the Senate adds Net Neutrality language to the Stevens bill, they plan to use **procedural sneakiness** to remove the language in **conference committee**.

1. **Call Senator Cantwell's office at 202-224-3441 and thank her for supporting Net Neutrality principles.** Then tell her that because of GOP threats to "fix" the bill in conference committee, **the Senate must not pass Stevens' bill in any form.**
2. **Call Senator Murray's office at 202.224-2621** and give her the same message - **Ted Stevens' Telecom bill in any form is a threat to our Internet freedoms. It must be defeated.**
3. **Stay informed** by reading about the issue at [www.reclaimthedia.org](http://www.reclaimthedia.org). Then **tell your family and friends** to take the same actions.

**This is a fight we can win**, but only if we show our support now, loud and clear. **Take action now!**

**Visit [reclaimthedia.org](http://reclaimthedia.org) for more info.**