

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2006

Dear Colleague:

We urge your support for H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 (COPE). This legislation will bring much needed competition to cable television and produce lower rates for consumers. It also will promote the deployment of next-generation, broadband communications networks throughout America.

Importantly, H.R. 5252 also would spur high-tech investment. It will mean more investment in high-capacity, broadband networks, which will provide a healthy boost to our economy while providing for more effective delivery of education, health care, and other public services.

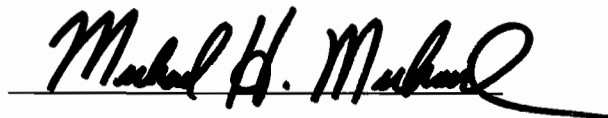
The Barton-Rush bill is a win-win situation. It fosters competition, investment, and job creation. The House Energy & Commerce Committee approved the measure by a broad, bipartisan majority (42 to 12).

Opponents of this bill are pushing for more network regulation because they think consumers will be discriminated against. However, this bill guarantees Internet customers the ability to access any content or website. It ensures customers the right to use any lawful application and to connect non-harmful equipment without interference from Internet service providers. The bill gives the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) clear authority to address complaints quickly on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ability to impose strict fines, up to \$500,000, should discrimination occur.

We do not need legislation to expand federal controls over the Internet, which may discourage investment. Congress needs to let competition remedy our nation's broadband shortfall. Our country lags behind many of our global trade rivals and competitors; the US currently ranks 13th in terms of broadband subscribership. This bill will promote the competition necessary to roll out broadband throughout our entire country. Support H.R. 5252. It is good for consumers and for our country as well.

Sincerely,









David Scott

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