

Organization: **Qwest Communications**
Contact: Dorothy Walsh
(202) 429-3109
Dorothy.walsh@qwest.com
www.qwest.com



Topic: Legislating Net Neutrality -- Necessary?

NET NEUTRALITY MANDATES STIFLE INVESTMENT

Qwest supports the language in the Barton-Rush bill that codifies and enforces the FCC's "net neutrality" principles. However, Qwest opposes amendments that impose new net neutrality mandates.

- Qwest will not engage in degrading any consumer's access to the Internet.
- Internet content providers and carriers should not be precluded from entering into commercial arrangements for network services that will enhance and differentiate their products for their customers.
- The Internet has thrived because government has taken a hands-off approach. So-called "net neutrality" requirements could stifle network expansion and innovation. These mandates are also intended to require users to pay for network investments, as opposed to those content providers who consume the most network capacity.

"A handful of the world's biggest corporations are waging a campaign to redefine "Net neutrality" and, unfortunately, it's the customer that's disappearing from the debate. In the end customers should be able to decide what level of Internet experience they desire."

–Richard Notebaert, Chairman & CEO, Qwest Communications
Wall Street Journal, March 29, 2006