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CONTACT: Scott Cleland
703-217-2407

NetCompetition.org: Preemptive Internet Regulation Would Worsen Economy and Stifle Broadband Investment and Deployment

WASHINGTON—Scott Cleland, chairman of NetCompetition.org, today questioned why the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet is using today's hearing, "H.R. 5353, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2008," to focus on net neutrality legislation. Preemptive regulation, when the Internet is flourishing could worsen the economic recession, cost the U.S. jobs and innovation and put on hold broadband deployment that could help to be a stable economic force to dig the economy out of recession.

"Net neutrality is a complete waste of Congress' time and energy. With so many pressing issues whether the economy, the energy situation or in healthcare, why do they continue to be focused on a fringe issue that most Americans have never heard of? The legislation being discussed today is neither sound Democratic policy nor sound Republican policy and is simply a factional business dispute that the market should sort out." Cleland said.

"The Internet continues to be the greatest free market success story of all time. Net neutrality's 'socialized Internet' policy could bring the downfall of what has been the main economic driver for the last 15 years."

NETCompetition.org is an e-forum to debate the merits of net neutrality. It is funded by broadband telecom, cable and wireless companies who believe in free and open Internet competition, not net regulation. See www.netcompetition.org.

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