July 16, 2004

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name),

EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. The current membership comprises nearly 1,900 colleges, universities, and education organizations, including more than 180 corporations and more than 13,000 active member representatives such as (insert two schools from their home state and the member representative from each)

EDUCAUSE recently submitted comments to the FCC in the matter of IP-enabled services (WC Docket No. 04-36) expressing our views on regulating these services, particularly voice over internet protocol (VoIP). We are encouraged that the Senate Commerce Committee is also addressing this important issue as it considers Senator Sununu’s bill S. 2281, the VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004. This bill is consistent with the mandate Congress has previously given the FCC to protect the public interest, to avoid unnecessary regulation and to promote innovation. S. 2281 is also consistent with our view that VoIP is a unique technology that should remain distinct from the legacy telephony regulatory system. With this in mind, the community that EDUCAUSE represents recommends that you vote to accept the language in the VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004 as written.

EDUCAUSE’s college and university members plan, design, build-out, and manage both Internet technology and legacy telephone technology on their campuses. As networks increasingly converge to provide Internet based services, they feel that voice communications will become something very different from today’s ‘plain old telephone service’. Senator Sununu’s bill provides a strong foundation on which the FCC can build an efficient, effective and forward-looking regulatory framework for these modern telecommunications.

Sincerely,

Brian Hawkins
President
EDUCAUSE