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EDUCAUSE AND INTERNET2 COMMEND SENATOR WYDEN BILL TO PROTECT AN OPEN
INTERNET AND NET NEUTRALITY

Bill Seeks to Safeguard Founding Internet Principles to Ensure
Continued U.S. Innovation
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Washington, D.C., and Ann Arbor, Mich., March 3, 2006--EDUCAUSE and
Internet2 have praised Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) for his leading effort
to safeguard the founding Internet principle of "net neutrality" in his
recently introduced Internet Non-Discrimination Act of 2006. Wyden's
bill takes an informed approach to protecting the openness of the
Internet which will ensure continued U.S. innovation and leadership in
the global Internet economy and allow U.S. citizens the right to
control their own Internet experiences.

In a letter to Wyden, EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins and Internet2
President and CEO Doug Van Houweling said, "Higher education depends
upon an open Internet to accomplish its mission of promoting
educational opportunity for all Americans. The Internet has become the
most valuable medium for distance learning, scientific research,
telemedicine, and many other educational purposes. Broadband Internet
service allows rural students to take music classes from the best
symphony conductors, permits grammar school students to participate in
virtual undersea expeditions, and permits doctors in remote locations
to share X-rays and monitor their patients in real-time. But the
Internet can only serve these goals if it remains open and available to
all users, educators and innovators."

Wyden's bill makes certain that network operators do not act as
gatekeepers by blocking, screening, or discriminating against certain
kinds of Internet traffic or creating segregated Internet highways for their own preferred services. Internet2's experience in deploying advanced networks that support high-end broadband services shows that keeping networks open, inexpensive, and simple is better than costly, complex, and closed, as many network operators are now proposing. This bill is an important step toward guaranteeing that the Internet will remain open and available to all Americans, keeping in step with the international community.

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 look forward to working with Senator Wyden and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on this issue in the coming months.

Learn more about the importance of this issue to higher education and the public at the EDUCAUSE Net Neutrality resource site at http://www.educause.edu/netneutrality