

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

July 13, 2006

Mr. Eric Robbins

~~2006-07-13~~

Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Dear Mr. Robbins:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the need to maintain "network neutrality" on the internet. I appreciate having the benefit of your comments on the importance of unfettered internet access.

After passing the House of Representatives by a vote of 321 to 101, H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006, was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. During the Commerce Committee's consideration of H.R. 5252, an amendment which would have required broadband providers to operate their networks in a non-discriminatory manner was defeated by a vote of 11 to 11. On June 28, 2006, the Commerce Committee ordered H.R. 5252 favorably reported. It is unclear at this time whether the bill will come before the full Senate for consideration. Should the full Senate have the opportunity to debate this legislation, you may be certain that I will carefully consider its impact on American consumers and businesses and the State of Maryland.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance to you in the future.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/sgz