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## Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies

The gavel has fallen on the 109th Congress marking the demise of entrenched corporate efforts to legislate away our Internet freedoms — and a stunning victory for real people who want to retain control of the Internet.

The fate of Net Neutrality has now been passed to what appears to be a more Web-friendly Congress.

Our Coalition pledges to work with new Members to craft policies that ensure all Americans can access the Internet and enjoy the unlimited choices it has to offer.

The end of this Congress — and death of [Sen. Ted Stevens' bad bill](#) — gives us the chance to have a long overdue public conversation about what the future of the Internet should look like. This will not only include ensuring Net Neutrality, but making the Internet faster, more affordable and accessible.



### **‘Huge Victory for Real People’**

As the 109th comes to a close, Coalition members today praised our efforts in 2006 and discussed ways we can work towards a better Internet:

“This is a huge victory for real people and a clear signal to the next Congress that standing up for big bold ideas is a winning political proposition,” said **Eli Pariser**, executive director of MoveOn.org Civic Action.

Companies like AT&T, Verizon, BellSouth and Comcast spent more than \$150 million to push Congress to gut Net Neutrality. But in the end, they couldn’t overcome [widespread public opposition](#).

“The people’s attention to the issue of Net Neutrality is more powerful than any legislation — and this year proves that,” said **Tim Wu**, a professor at Columbia University Law School and author of [Who Controls the Internet](#).

### **‘It’s About Fairness’**

Network Neutrality has been part of the Internet since its inception, ensuring that the service providers who control the

“pipes” don’t interfere with content based on its ownership or source. “Net neutrality is just about fairness and a level playing field,” said **Craig Newmark**, founder of craigslist. “It’s that simple.”

“Industry will be back with their money and phony grassroots groups,” said **Jeannine Kenney**, senior policy analyst at Consumers Union. “But next time around, with a public now well-informed of what’s at stake, we hope Congress will take up broadband policy that advances consumer — not just industry — needs.”

The more than 850 groups in the SavetheInternet.com Coalition also include the National Religious Broadcasters, the Service Employees International Union, the American Library Association, Educause, Gun Owners of America, Future of Music Coalition, Parents Television Council, the ACLU, and every major consumer group in the country. These are supported by a community of more than a million small businesspeople, bloggers, MySpacers, YouTubers, activists and citizens who [signed petitions](#), [called Congress](#) and [pounded on](#) their senators’ doors.

“As an activist and new media advocate, I am encouraged by our prospects in Congress for protecting the egalitarian spirit of the Internet and all people’s unfettered access to it,” said **Christopher Rabb**, founder of Afro-Netizen. “This fight has even greater impact on underserved communities, particularly among African-Americans, who rarely own or control the content we consume in mainstream media.”

### ‘The Fight for Net Neutrality Has Only Begun’



While the defeat of HR 5252 is a major step forward, the future of the Internet remains in jeopardy until Congress passes meaningful, enforceable protections for Net Neutrality. Such legislation will be a top priority for members of the SavetheInternet.com Coalition when the legislators return in January.

“Despite a Congress deeply in the pocket of telecom lobbyists, the public banded together to stop attacks on our free and open Internet,” declared **Michael Kieschnick**, president of the Working Assets. “In 2007, we will continue the fight to preserve this precious public good by making Network Neutrality the law of the land.”

“The potent combination of grassroots support and the facts stopped a bad bill,” said **Mark Cooper**, director of research for the Consumer Federation of America. “But the fight for Net Neutrality has only begun.”

This entry was posted on Friday, December 8th, 2006 at 6:37 pm and is filed under [Uncategorized](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

## 24 Responses to “Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies”

1. *DavidGX* Says:

[December 9th, 2006 at 12:44 am](#)

This is great news. Thanks a lot for all you have done and have yet do to, savetheinternet.com. I’ll be here, waiting to take any action needed to ensure internet freedom.

2. *Florida Free Culture » Anti-Net Neutrality Bill Dies* Says:

[December 9th, 2006 at 5:03 pm](#)

[...] Senator Ted “Series of Tubes” Stevens’ rewrite of the Telecommunications Act (H.R. 5252) has failed. SaveTheInternet.com says: The end of this Congress — and death of Sen. Ted Stevens’ bad bill — gives us the chance to have a long overdue public conversation about what the future of the Internet should look like. This will not only include ensuring Net Neutrality, but making the Internet faster, more affordable and accessible. [...]

3. *Net Neutrality wins this round decisively at Philip* Says:

[December 9th, 2006 at 6:55 pm](#)

[...] Read about it here. [...]

4. [Net Neutrality Survives - for now » Ready Fire Aim](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 12:19 am](#)

[...] A post on SaveTheInternet.com announces that HR 5252 has been defeated in Congress (background reading on network neutrality at Wikipedia). This is the famous “Anti Net Neutrality Bill” sponsored by Alaskan Senator Ted Stevens. Yes, the same Ted Stevens that gave us the following choice quotes: “...an Internet was sent by my staff at 10 o’clock in the morning on Friday, I got it yesterday. Why?” “They want to deliver vast amounts of information over the Internet. And again, the Internet is not something you just dump something on. It’s not a big truck. It’s a series of tubes. And if you don’t understand those tubes can be filled and if they are filled, when you put your message in, it gets in line and it’s going to be delayed by anyone that puts into that tube enormous amounts of material, enormous amounts of material.” [...]

5. [GeekL33T » Blog Archive » Huge Victory for Net Neutrality](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 2:17 am](#)

[...] The gavel has fallen on the 109th Congress marking the demise of entrenched corporate efforts to legislate away our Internet freedoms — and a stunning victory for real people who want to retain control of the Internet. From Save The internet blog [...]

6. [PaulStamatiou.com](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 4:18 am](#)

### **Net Neutrality is Here to Stay...**

The Save the Internet blog reports that Congress has dismissed Senator Ted Stevens’ anti-net neutrality bill. The bill would have given massive telecommunications corporations the ability to charge extra fees to guarantee that certain websites op...

7. [Anti-Net Neutrality Bill Dies! « Daily news](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 8:47 am](#)

[...] read more | digg story [...]

8. [Whataweenie » Blog Archive » Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 11:28 am](#)

[...] Full article here. [...]

9. [TC375 BLOG \(Fall 2006\) » Blog Archive » Network Neutrality Upheld?!](#)  Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 12:18 pm](#)

[...] On the front page of digg.com this morning was a blog story about the defeat of the “Anti-Net Neutrality” bill, more formally known as House Resolution 5252. The mainstream news doesn’t seem to be covering this, but it seems that with the end of the 109th Congressional session, the proposed Telecommunications Act has been dismissed. The digg page is here, and the original story (coming from the “Save the Internet” blog) is here. Not the best source on the web, but it seems to be accurate in this case. I’m interested to see how this is covered in mainstream news media. [...]

10. [Infinite Domain of Unconscious Deterministic Chaos » Blog Archive » Net Neutrality Gains a Huge Victory](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 3:02 pm](#)

[...] <http://www.savetheinternet.com/blog/2006/12/08/congress-closes-telco-bill-dies-on-the-vine/> “Industry will be back with their money and phony grassroots groups,” said Jeannine Kenney, senior policy analyst at Consumers Union. “But next time around, with a public now well-informed of what’s at stake, we hope Congress will take up broadband policy that advances consumer — not just industry — needs.” [...]

11. [Kyle Libra's kylelibra.com » Blog Archive » Save the Internet](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 3:22 pm](#)

[...] This is good. If you don't want to read some really long article, just know this. A bill was defeated in Congress that would destroy net neutrality. [...]

12. [LiamFerris.com » Goodbye and good riddance, 109th Congress!](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 4:55 pm](#)

[...] Fortunately with the demiae of the 109th comes the demise of the anti-net neutrality bill which would have killed the Internet as we know it today. Check out an article on the demise of the bill here. [...]

13. [Net Neutrality Here To Stay / Open Switch](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 5:01 pm](#)

[...] It looks like Net Neutrality is here to stay. This is a huge victory for "we the people." (via Stammy) [...]

14. [Cmg3](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 5:52 pm](#)

Teleco, I'd like to direct you attention to this:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=PALxktAMw3I>

AHAHAHAHA!!!

15. [A huge victory for internet users - preCharge Forums](#) Says:  
[December 10th, 2006 at 10:49 pm](#)

[...] A huge victory for internet users FROM Save the Internet Blog ? Blog Archive ? Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies Congrats All!!!! The gavel has fallen on the 109th Congress marking the demise of entrenched corporate efforts to legislate away our Internet freedoms ? and a stunning victory for real people who want to retain control of the Internet. The fate of Net Neutrality has now been passed to what appears to be a more Web-friendly Congress. Our Coalition pledges to work with new Members to craft policies that ensure all Americans can access the Internet and enjoy the unlimited choices it has to offer. The end of this Congress ? and death of Sen. Ted Stevens? bad bill ? gives us the chance to have a long overdue public conversation about what the future of the Internet should look like. This will not only include ensuring Net Neutrality, but making the Internet faster, more affordable and accessible. [...]

16. [its about time» Blog Archive » links for 2006-12-10](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 12:39 am](#)

[...] Save the Internet Blog » Blog Archive » Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies HOORAY! No net neutrality! (tags: congress internet netneutrality neutrality politics usa) [...]

17. [Brian Griffin - Telco bill dies and Net neutrality survives](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 1:38 am](#)

[...] Telco bill dies and Net neutrality survives. [...]

18. [Binary Tuberculosis » Blog Archive » Internet In Neutral](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 2:54 am](#)

[...] Read more about it here: Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies [...]

19. [mann3r](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 4:04 am](#)

<http://www.allseocontest.com/telco-bill-dies-a-huge-victory-for-real-people.html>

20. [\*US Net neutrality bill fizzles out with Democrat victory -- The Snailbyte Weblog\*](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 7:48 am](#)

[...] This bill now seems to have fizzled out according to the Save the Internet Blog: “Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies“. [...]

21. [\*Information Architects Japan » Blog Archive » New economy is turning democratic: Will the old economy follow?\*](#)  
Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 8:15 am](#)

[...] Democratic Internet is taking over: The New York Times just surrendered to social news, the Telco Bill died and recently YouTube’s traffic passed Microsoft’s corporate website. That last takeover parallels the takeover of free countries over non free countries in 1986. [...]

22. [\*America In Danger - The Blog » Anti-Net Neutrality Bill Dies!\*](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 9:09 am](#)

[...] [read more](#) | [digg story](#) December 11th 2006 Posted to Site Updates [...]

23. [\*Morgan Stack » Blog Archive » Net Neutrality Killer Bill Dies.\*](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 1:44 pm](#)

[...] Huge Victory for Real People as Telco Bill Dies [...]

24. [\*Hapax Legomenon » net neutrality: we live to die another day...\*](#) Says:  
[December 11th, 2006 at 4:54 pm](#)

[...] It looks like the fate of Net Neutrality will be decided by a different Congress... [read more](#) at Save the Internet.  
[...]

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Save the Internet Blog is proudly powered by [WordPress](#)  
[Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#).