



American Association of Law Libraries
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

Network Neutrality

Legislation in the 111th Congress: No legislation has been introduced this year.

Committees: [Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation](#); [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)

Current Status: During the 110th Congress, AALL supported legislation in the House (*Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2008*, [H.R. 5353](#)) and Senate (*Internet Freedom Preservation Act*, [S. 215](#)), which would have ensured Network Neutrality (Net Neutrality) by keeping telecommunications companies from discriminating against certain types of Internet traffic.

Message for senators on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House representatives on the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

- AALL is committed to ensuring Net Neutrality because law librarians are providers, creators and users of digital, legal information.
- AALL believes that we must ensure Net Neutrality in order to maintain an open environment on the Internet in which competition, innovation, and ingenuity thrive.
- AALL is a member of the “Open Internet Coalition” and “Save the Internet,” and we strongly support their positions on Net Neutrality.
- Ask members of both committees to introduce a Net Neutrality bill before the August recess and urge them to sign on as co-sponsors.

Background:

Net Neutrality is a principle that ensures that all Internet traffic is treated equally. Net Neutrality is very important to AALL because law librarians are providers, creators and users of digital, legal information. Law libraries are responsible for providing equal online access that allows users to find the information they need. If telecommunications companies are allowed to break the principle of Net Neutrality and create a tiered system of broadband access, law libraries may not be able to pay the fees for preferred access. This will prevent users from having a consistent and reliable way of accessing important online legal information.

On May 29, 2009, President Barack Obama, in a speech about the nation's cyber-security, reaffirmed his commitment to Net Neutrality. We commend President Obama for his support and urge members of Congress to ensure Net Neutrality continues so that the Internet remains non-discriminatory and continues to allow for innovation and growth.