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## TeleCONSENSUS Opposes Inclusion of Internet Regulation in House Telecom Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—TeleCONSENSUS today commented on the House Energy and Commerce Committee markup of the “Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006,” introduced by Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) and Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL). TeleCONSENSUS renews its opposition to including “net neutrality” principles in any legislative proposals. These provisions are unnecessary and have the potential to stifle new investment in broadband network infrastructure, stall the introduction of innovative technologies, and hinder consumer choice.

“This legislation marks modest progress toward eliminating laws that are stifling innovation and investment in the telecommunications industry, but it still subjects the telecommunications industry to a regulatory regime that is not applied to any other competitive market,” said William L. Kovacs, Vice President for Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and spokesman for TeleCONSENSUS.

The bill would, for the first time, impose federal regulation on the Internet. “Simply put, ‘net neutrality’ provisions have no place in legislation that seeks to update our nation’s telecommunications laws. TeleCONSENSUS calls on Congress to exclude these provisions,” said Kovacs.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce formed TeleCONSENSUS to educate policymakers, the business community, and the public about the need for modernized federal telecommunications laws and the importance of advanced telecommunications services to the U.S. economy. TeleCONSENSUS is a broad-based coalition with 190 member organizations representing trade associations, chambers of commerce, telecommunications providers and equipment manufacturers, businesses, and consumers.