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TeleCONSENSUS Comments on Passage of House Judiciary “Net Neutrality” Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—TeleCONSENSUS commented on the passage yesterday of H.R. 5417, the Internet Freedom and Nondiscrimination Act of 2006, by the House Judiciary Committee.

“TeleCONSENSUS is disappointed that the House Judiciary Committee passed legislation that would, for the first time, impose government regulation on the Internet,” said William L. Kovacs, Vice President for Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and spokesman for TeleCONSENSUS. “However, we were heartened that even some of those who voted for the bill recognized the legislation’s potential to stifle new investment in broadband network infrastructure and stall the introduction of innovative technologies,” added Kovacs.

TeleCONSENSUS looks forward to working with Congress to pass legislation based on the principle that telecommunications markets should be driven by advances in technology, competition between telecommunications companies, and consumer choice, not by government regulation.

Led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, TeleCONSENSUS represents a vast and diverse business community. Its mission is 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 has more than 190 member organizations representing trade associations, chambers of commerce, telecommunications providers and equipment manufacturers, businesses, and consumers.