



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Strict FCC Control of the Internet Quietly Picks Up Steam

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, October 23, 2009 - An aide to Sen. Byron L. Dorgan said the North Dakota Democrat will reintroduce his "Preserving Internet Freedom" bill, which he last sponsored in 2007. Maine Republican Olympia J. Snowe is expected to cosponsor the bill, as she has in the past.

Dorgan's aide said the bill is intended to support and help codify new net neutrality principles announced Sept. 21 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Some members of the House are proceeding along a similar tack. Rep. Edward J. Markey, (D-MA) has introduced a bill intended to "complement" the FCC's new mandates and ensure that they endure beyond the Obama administration.

"Net neutrality" places Internet service providers under strict federal control, removing their freedom to control Internet traffic or to establish tiered pathways.

Senator John McCain, an Arizona Republican, called the proposed net neutrality rules a "government takeover" of the Internet that will stifle innovation and depress an "already anemic" job market in the U.S. He has introduced legislation that would prohibit an FCC "takeover."

Vicki Rolens, managing director of the Federation of American Travelers and Consumers (FACT), says: "The issue of 'net neutrality' is not a simple one. It's definitely worth the consumer's time to read up on both sides of the matter, as it can have a significant impact on how the Internet will work and what it will be able to deliver." She adds: "Anyone who forms a strong opinion concerning net neutrality should then make that opinion known to his or her representatives in Washington."

This news release has been issued by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT). FACT is a not-for-profit consumer organization, formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. It currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site (www.usafact.org). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [scholarships](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.