

**Statement of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
To the House Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet
Hearing on the Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2008
May 6, 2008**

On behalf of the 1.2 million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, we are pleased to submit this written statement in support of H.R. 5353, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2008. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® represents a wide variety of real estate industry professionals. Realtors® are industry innovators who understand that more and more consumers today are seeking real estate information and services online. For this reason, the overwhelming majority of NAR members rely on competitive broadband services in order to operate their businesses.

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® supports five principles with respect to network neutrality. These include: 1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; 2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement; 3) consumers are entitled to connect to their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network; 4) consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers; and 5) network providers should not discriminate among internet data transmissions on the basis of the source of the transmission as they regulate the flow of network content.

NAR believes that H.R. 5353 will maintain the freedom to use for lawful purposes broadband networks without unreasonable interference from or discrimination by network operators. This measure will preserve and promote the open nature of broadband networks enabling consumers, including real estate professionals, to access lawful content, applications, devices and services of their choice.

We thank the subcommittee for this opportunity to share our views regarding network neutrality. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® supports H.R. 5353 and urges the subcommittee to pass this important legislation.