

On Wednesday, February 27, the House will consider HR 1542, the Tauzin-Dingell "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act." The Rules Committee will meet late tomorrow to decide the parameters of debate and what, if any, amendments will be allowed.

The following is an e-mail that we sent today to 20,000 supporters of AISPA, urging them to contact their Member of Congress to voice opposition to this bill. We would like to encourage you to add your voice to the many who will contact their elected officials in the next 48 hours, and urge customers, friends, family and business associates to do the same. Whether the bill passes or is defeated, our House of Representatives must know that they will be held accountable for their vote, and you need to be the one to tell them.

The final vote is expected Wednesday afternoon. We will send you an e-mail notification once the vote is over.

From: American ISPs
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 12:44 PM
Subject: Congress is giving the Bell companies your internet access.

Send a message to your Members of Congress: "Oppose HR 1542 - the "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act."

On Wednesday, February 27, your Member of Congress will be asked to vote on **HR 1542**, the "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act." This is a special interest bill that will benefit no one but the giant Bell monopolies; **Qwest, BellSouth, Verizon and SBC**. It will allow those companies to be **your only choice** when it comes to high-speed Internet access. Another section of the bill frees the Bells from federal and state oversight by regulators. ***And a hostage consumer will be forced to accept poor service and higher prices because when there is no competition, there is no incentive to improve.***

The question about how Americans access the Internet goes beyond simply which phone number a modem is set to dial. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been a quiet force in America's economy, assisting consumers with the maze of software available for Internet connection (and in the process, promoting software diversity) as well as helping America's small to medium sized businesses enter the e-commerce world. This kind of personalized service is simply not done well by the large national online providers. The loss of these ISPs would have profound effects not only on how Americans use the Internet, but eventually, what they see there.

The time for action is NOW. Here is what you can do:

1. Call your Member of Congress and ask him/her to vote against HR 1542.
2. Fax or email your Member of Congress and ask him/her to vote against HR 1542.
3. Email your friends and business associates and ask them to contact their Members of Congress.

The Bells are spending millions of dollars lobbying on behalf of this self-serving legislation. But it is common knowledge that elected officials react strongly to calls and letters from constituents at home, much more so than slick ads and armies of lobbyists. That is why it is important for you to contact your Representative, and encourage as many others as possible to do the same.

To write an email or to find more information, visit the [AISPA website action center](#).