



## Letters 12/18

A world leader

December 18, 2005

In a recent letter, reader Marsha Tejada voiced concerns about the availability of high-speed broadband communications in the North Lake Tahoe area, as well as the United States as a whole. And, suggested that the government run the Internet and other communications services, such as wireless. Do we really want to model the information superhighway on government run information technology solutions?

I would hope we would take a closer look at Senator Ensign's proposed Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act - because this legislation will help speed the delivery of more telecommunications services to communities like ours.

Today, technology evolves far more quickly than regulations. In fact, existing telecommunications laws barely acknowledge the Internet! Government is finally figuring out that promoting competition, not micro-managing the marketplace, is the best way to ensure the public good.

Sen. Ensign's bill has important and essential consumer protections such as E-911 service for Internet phones and access to these new technologies for people with disabilities. Senator Ensign's bill also clears away unnecessary rules that were written before the Internet's growth, so we can have more choice, lower prices, and access to new technologies like Wi-Fi broadband hot spots, and high-speed Internet TV. It just makes sense for government to foster the environment for private investment in these services, rather than for municipalities to spend their limited resources on duplicating them.

The U.S. may lag many other countries in broadband deployment, but Senator Ensign's bill gives us the opportunity to become a world leader in telecommunications policy as well as technology.

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