

## The New York Times

### Regulating The Net

May 22, 2008

Your May 19 editorial “Democracy and the Web” argues for broad new federal regulation of the Internet — a first in Internet history.

You say that “if Internet service providers started discriminating among content to make more money or to suppress ideas they do not like,” users will suffer. What you overlook is that there already are laws and regulators poised to deal with any such hypothetical problems.

Moreover, the first-time ever federal control of the Internet “pipes” inevitably will hinder the network management (and build-out) needed to handle the torrent of new video and other data-rich traffic flooding the Internet. Users (and democracy) then will really suffer when they face higher costs or limited service, or both.

Federal control and dumb pipes are not the answer to our broadband needs, especially when the alleged basis of the new laws is speculation.

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Hands Off the Internet  
Washington, May 19, 2008