



Tom Amontree: U.S. Leads In Broadband

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Dear Editor: Those championing government regulation of the Internet are intent on convincing Americans that “the sky is falling” when it comes to our nation’s competitiveness (“U.S. falls in global broadband ranking,” May 21). The facts tell a different story.

Today our nation boasts nearly 1,400 broadband service providers. Last year alone, these private companies contributed to nearly \$70 billion in North American communications infrastructure investment. And, the just-released 2008 World Competitiveness Yearbook ranks the U.S. No. 1 in world competitiveness -- for the 14th year in a row.

Arguing, as the study cited in your article does, that the U.S. (broadband population: 70 million) has fallen behind Iceland (broadband population: 100,000) would be comically misleading, if the policy implications weren’t so serious.

The fact is broadband is available to almost every consumer in the United States, and speeds are getting faster every year. We don’t need inaccurate depictions of the broadband situation in this country. We need to keep our eye on what is most important: policies that encourage vigorous, diverse network investment that can help our nation achieve broadband for every American.

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