



Dear Website Visitor:

Most people think that the United States--the country that invented the Internet--is a global leader in high speed Internet. We're not. We are #16 and falling behind countries that range from Sweden to South Korea.

We are falling behind because our country doesn't have a policy that will lead to investment in the technology to bring the benefits of this telecommunications revolution to every citizen.

That's why CWA is launching "Speed Matters"--one of the most important public issue campaigns in our history. This effort has the potential to boost the economy, bring high speed Internet to rural and urban America and create thousands of quality union jobs.

Congress is stalled on any significant legislation, so we will educate both lawmakers and the general public on the importance of getting a real plan in place.

We've created a dynamic website which will be a clearinghouse for information on the potential for change and the challenges we face. The site features a tool that allows you see how your Internet connection speed compares to others in your area and around the world. Visit <http://www.speedmatters.org/speed-test> to try it.

You can get in touch with the team running this project at this address: [speedmatters@cwa-union.org](mailto:speedmatters@cwa-union.org) .

Use that address for any questions or ideas. And after you test your own speed, let the members of your local know about it. It's a quick and easy way to spread the word about our project.

It's time for CWA to let the American people know: the development of true high speed Internet access for every home and business is essential for American job creation and economic growth in the digital age.

Bookmark the site's homepage and check back often:

<http://www.speedmatters.org>

Together, we will strengthen our union and close the digital divide.

In Unity-Strength & Solidarity:

Steve Tisza, President

CWA Local 4250 - Chicago

# Good Jobs

FOR THE

## *Internet Era*

*Communications  
Workers  
of America*

at&t has declared surpluses in dozens of locations during 2006. While the union works to avoid involuntary layoffs, each of these announcements makes the job of every CWA member at at&t more vulnerable.

Even as at&t decides which union jobs it can cut, at&t gives the work of the future — work it agreed would go to CWA members — to non-union workers:

- Using managers and non-represented employees to run video hub operations.
- Installing and maintaining hubs and routers on the Internet network with non-union employees and contractors.
- Shifting customer premise work for large business customers to contractors and managers.
- Contracting the work of network technical specialists nationwide.
- Subcontracting customer service work for off-shift hours.

**It's time for at&t  
to deliver on  
its promise  
of good jobs  
and career  
opportunities  
for CWA members  
in the Internet era.**

**Communications Workers of America**

# Speed Matters

The U.S. – the country that invented the Internet – has fallen from 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in high-speed Internet penetration. To assure economic growth, we must reverse that trend.

- **Speed and Universality Matter for Internet access.**

High-tech innovation, job growth, telemedicine, distance learning, rural development, public safety, e-government require truly high-speed, universal networks.

- **U.S. “high-speed” definition is too slow.**

FCC defines “high-speed” as 200 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream. Government policies should immediately set “high-speed” definition at 2 megabits per second (mbps) downstream, 1 upstream.

- **U.S. Needs a National High-Speed Internet for All Policy.**

U.S. must adopt policies for universal access and set deployment timetables: 10 mbps down, 1 mbps up by 2010, with new benchmarks set for succeeding years.

- **Open Internet.**

High-speed, high-capacity networks will eliminate bandwidth scarcity and will promote an open Internet. Consumers are entitled to an open Internet allowing them to go where they want when they want. Nothing should be done to degrade or block access to any websites. Reserving proprietary video bandwidth is essential to finance the build-out of high-speed networks.

- **Consumer and worker protections.**

Public policies should support growth of good, career jobs as a key to quality service. Government should require public reporting of deployment, actual speed, and price.



# Speed Matters: High-Speed Internet for All

CWA Convention Resolution: 68A-06-09

Approved: July 11, 2006

The United States – the country that invented the Internet – should be at the cutting edge of communications. Instead, we have dropped to 16th in the world in broadband deployment, behind Japan, Korea, Sweden, Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland and others.

All 15 nations that are ahead of us have made broadband deployment a national priority and have ensured that national public policy reflects that goal. The lack of a clear, consistent and comprehensive national high-speed Internet policy jeopardizes our economic future. A vibrant national economy depends upon world-class digital networks connecting companies, suppliers and customers, stimulating job-creating innovation and growth in content and applications.

Investment in high-capacity networks by CWA employers creates opportunities for good union jobs. But too many high-tech and communications companies have taken the low-wage, anti-union path. We must ensure that job growth translates into career, middle-class union jobs.

Speed matters for digital networks. Speed of data delivery defines what is possible. Some countries have plans to deploy nearly universal networks capable of delivering 100 megabytes per second (mbps). In Japan, fiber networks delivering 100 mbps already pass more than 70 percent of the homes served by NTT East, one of their two local telecommunications carriers.

In the U.S., the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today counts speeds above 200 kilobytes (500 times slower than Japan's standard) as "broadband" – the proxy for high-speed Internet. The FCC should change its measure of high-speed Internet to measure downstream speeds to the house and upstream speeds from the home to the Internet. Current benchmarks should be set at 2 megabytes downstream and 1 megabyte upstream and should increase over time. Such a redefinition would reveal the problems we face in high-speed Internet deployment and our nation's need to invest in networks.

High-capacity networks provide numerous social and economic benefits which must be accessible and affordable to all Americans.

High-speed interactive broadband offers instantaneous contact between health professionals and patients that enables remote monitoring, efficient chronic disease management and more effective responses to emergencies.

Dynamic two-way communication, discourse and conferencing allows students and teachers to minimize the obstacles of distance and maximize the potential of simultaneous voice, data, and video sharing.

Governments increasingly rely on the Internet to provide information and forms for taxes and government programs. For example, enrollment in the Medicare Part D drug plan relied on web-based communications, and people without broadband access are disadvantaged. High-speed interactive broadband can also improve citizens' ability to interact with government officials.

Access to high-speed broadband is important for police, fire, and emergency medical personnel as a means to respond to crises in this post 9-11 world. Multiple forms of simultaneous transmission allow individuals to break through the limits of physical disabilities.

High-speed networks can break down the barriers of distance allowing residents of rural communities to participate fully in economic and civic life.

In sum, high-speed networks are the critical infrastructure of a 21st century economy and society. Since market forces alone will not provide affordable high-speed Internet to all Americans, the United States must do more to promote investment so that all residents are able to participate equally in the benefits promised by the information revolution.

The first step is to establish a national broadband policy with clear goals for high-speed Internet deployment. As a realistic but aggressive goal, CWA recommends that all Americans should be able to connect to a digital network capable of delivering at least 10 mbps by 2010, increasing to 25 mbps by 2015.

To achieve this goal, government at all levels should adopt policies to stimulate investment in and demand for high-capacity networks. Investment policies include direct subsidies, tax incentives and/or loans. Subsidies for emergency services (police, fire, medical) should be a top priority. The highly successful E-rate program of subsidies for schools, libraries, and rural health centers should be continued and expanded to include community centers. Housing advocates have demonstrated how to leverage public money to stimulate broadband deployment in publicly subsidized housing; similarly, publicly funded health care, education, or job training could support more efficient provision of these services over high-speed networks.

Governments should also adopt policies to overcome barriers of cost, geography, or disability that consumers face in gaining access to high-speed broadband networks. Governments could aggregate demand by requiring their administrative units to utilize high-speed broadband, becoming "anchor" tenants in buildings or developments. Government can support demonstration projects in equipment distribution, consumer education and development of socially-useful content.

Government policies should also promote an open Internet to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information from a multiplicity of sources that is the foundation of a democratic society. Bandwidth scarcity and unequal deployment of high-speed networks undermines the value of the Internet.

CWA supports public disclosure of broadband access, speed, and usage policies and a complaint-based adjudication process at the FCC to protect consumers' right to access the content, run the applications and attach the equipment of their choice to high-speed networks. In addition, the federal government, through the FCC, should maintain active oversight of the Internet marketplace to ensure that all providers, including network providers, content providers and application providers, continue to advance these important consumer principles.

To promote consumer choice, government policy should require carriers to offer the option of selecting individual channels on an a la carte basis or as a self-selected tier.

CWA members develop the content, build and maintain the networks and service the customers of high-speed communications networks. We must take the lead together with progressive employers and public interest organizations to ensure universal, affordable

access to high-speed networks; quality service and quality jobs; and responsible corporate practices and consumer protections.

**RESOLVED:** The Communications Workers of America will launch a national "Speed Matters: High-Speed Internet for All" campaign involving CWA locals, districts and the International Union to promote action by the federal government to adopt a national broadband policy that will result in deployment of universal, affordable high-speed networks of at least 10 megabytes per second (mbps) to all Americans by 2010, with increasing speeds over time.

The CWA "Speed Matters" campaign will develop educational materials and conduct training workshops for CWA leaders and activists; disseminate promotional materials including web-based outreach; and position CWA as the leader in coalition with progressive employers and community groups in support of local, state, and federal policies for affordable, universal high-speed broadband networks and quality jobs.

**RESOLVED:** The Speed Matters campaign will support that networks and services will be provided by union workers and will oppose all efforts by local, state and federal governments to compete with our unionized employers and the jobs of our members.

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