THE WHITE HOUSE
National Economic Council

Fax Transmission

Date: _____ 3 Pages

To: Sally Floyd
510-845-2017

From: Tom Kalil

Comments:

For your wall . . .

September 2, 1998

Hon. Pete Domenici
U.S. Senate
SD 127
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Next Generation Internet (NGI) Energy and Water Development Appropriations

Dear Chairman Domenici:

As senior executives of some of America's leading Internet companies, we are writing to urge you to provide full funding for the Department of Energy's participation in the Next Generation Internet (NGI) when the conference committee meets on this matter. This year, the Department of Energy has requested $20 million.

As you know, today's Internet is driving U.S. economic growth, creating high-wage jobs, and changing the way we work, learn, and communicate with each other. The Internet is also the outgrowth of an extraordinarily productive partnership between government, industry, and academia. The federal government support for the research networks that would eventually become the Internet began in the late 1960's and continued for decades before the private sector commercialized Internet technology. DoE, along with the NSF and NASA were crucial to the development, deployment, and nurturing of the Internet from the late 1980's through the present time. The NGI provides the next large step to the Internet of the future by providing an environment where businesses can work with world class applications and network researchers at national labs, federal research centers and universities to jointly design and develop new technologies that will benefit all Americans.

That's why we think the Next Generation Internet initiative should be a national priority. The Information Revolution is just beginning. The networks of the future must be faster, more reliable, have the ability to connect billions of devices, and support real-time, multimedia applications. To achieve these goals, and to maintain U.S. leadership in Internet technology, it is essential that we continue to invest in long-term networking research.

The involvement of the Department of Energy in the Next Generation Internet initiative is particularly important. DoE labs employ some of the best networking researchers in the world. These researchers are responsible for critical work on designing Internet protocols, developing tools to measure and predict Internet traffic, supporting applications with different bandwidth requirements, preventing Internet congestion, developing very high speed interfaces, and developing intelligent middleware to enable the application to manage the underlying network infrastructure. Without the work by DoE-supported networking researchers, the Internet literally would have collapsed! Additionally, much of the DoE supported network research has resulted in adoption by industry and incorporation into commercial products and thus directly benefited the Internet as a whole. All agencies, as well as the Internet, will greatly benefit from DoE's active participation in the NGI.

The Department of Energy is also a demanding user for high-speed collaborative applications that require secure and manageable networks to connect geographically challenged scientists with unique on-line scientific instruments, supercomputers, and petabyte class databases all from their desktop. DoE's involvement in NGI will leverage the considerable investment our nation is making in their unique scientific facilities by allowing more researchers to have better access to these facilities.

The Next Generation Internet has strong bipartisan support. Legislation authorizing the NGI has passed both the Senate Commerce Committee and the House Science Committee unanimously. We hope that you will provide $20 million for DoE's participation in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

(see attached signature page)

James Barksdale
CEO, Netscape Communications Corporation

Carol Bartz
Chairman & CEO, Autodesk, Inc.

Chris Brody
Managing Director, E.M. Warburg Pincus & Co.

John Chambers
President & CEO, Cisco Systems

Scott Cook
Chairman, Intuit

Wilf Corrigan
CEO & Chairman, LSI Logic

John Kernan
CEO, The Lightspan Partnership

Burt McMurtry
Partner, Technology Venture Investors

Kim Polese
CEO, Marimba, Inc.

Wim Roelandts
President & CEO, Xilinx

Gregory Slayton
President & CEO, My Software Corporation