

I am writing to register strong opposition to the proposal to send broadband internet signals over power lines (BPL). This proposal is ill-conceived for a number of reasons.

(1) It provides only marginal advantage for most users over already available technology using DSL connection through existing telephone service.

(2) It will delay for many years the implementation of truly rapid internet service via the far superior installation of fiber-optic networks.

(3) It will render a wide range of the HF spectrum useless, generating interference to numerous licensed government services providing police, fire, and emergency communications, as well as to broadcast services, radio astronomy, and amateur communications. It can seriously compromise efforts on behalf of homeland security. At the frequencies employed, interference can travel great distances, even violating international treaties.

(4) It has already been tried and found wanting in several venues, including Austria. It requires expensive repeater installations nearly every mile and will not be cheaper than other technologies.

(5) Experience has already shown that providers of BPL services are very limited in their willingness or ability to mitigate interference when confronted with data.