



**ALABAMA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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July 12, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment, WC Docket No. 16-143; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25

Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing today to urge the FCC to take action to stimulate greater competition in the broadband marketplace, specifically regarding business data services. As a Chairman of the Commerce and Small Business Committee in the Alabama House of Representatives I know how high-speed broadband access plays a critical role in every aspect of businesses and our state government; it has completely transformed our economy. But more competition among broadband providers is needed.

Broadband is a critical piece of our economic infrastructure. In Alabama I represent many small businesses in my district that are feeling the pain from the high prices and excessive fees we pay for broadband. Overpriced business data services hinder innovation and hurts small businesses, institutions, state government and consumers.

Just as broadband is the backbone of the Internet, competition is an essential component of our free market economy. However, the lack of competition for providing business data services among broadband providers is stifling economic growth. Right now, there is a monopoly on this market with a majority of America's business data services being controlled by only two companies. That means they can charge unavoidable fees on business data services that, for small businesses can be astronomical.

But it's not just small business in my district that suffers from these high fees—this high cost of doing business is ultimately passed off onto the consumer, draining everyone's resources. With more competition and choice, Alabama businesses could pay less for the services we rely on, and use that savings to invest and improve our businesses.

I encourage the FCC guided by your knowledge to take the next step and act quickly. Small businesses in Alabama and across the country are depending on the FCC to evolve the business data services market. By addressing anticompetitive contracts on business data services and expanding competition among broadband providers, we can continue to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Williams".

Representative Jack Williams
Chairman, Commerce and Small Business Committee
Alabama House of Representatives, District 47