
SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION

David Ross
3333 Beverly Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179
847-286-1854

June 11, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding AT&T's recent petition to decommission their traditional copper landline telephone networks, it would be a step backward for competition. Competition drives companies to find cost and efficiency savings as well as provide excellent service. Competition contributes to industry growth, new jobs, and typically results in cost savings and convenience for the consumer.

In 1996, Congress enabled competition for basic telephone and data by allowing competitors to rent part of the Regional Bell Operating Companies' monopoly "last-mile" connections. That proved to be beneficial. At most of our business locations, the only viable "last-mile" network connection for voice and data continues to be the one provided by the RBOC's or other Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers. Competitive suppliers, like Granite Telecommunications, depend on those connections to serve us, and many other business customers like us. Without competitive access to those connections, the monopoly once held by the RBOC's over this part of the business market would be restored.

We wholeheartedly embrace the transition to new technologies. However, the transition should not become a spring board for re-monopolizing the telecommunications market. We respectfully ask the Commission to ensure that we will have competitive choices going forward, regardless of the technology transition taking place.

Sincerely,



David Ross
Technologist
Sears Holdings Corporation



June 2014

Keep Telephone and Data Services Competitive

Competition produces cost and efficiency savings as well as excellent service.

Competition contributes to growth, jobs, consumer savings and convenience.

In 1996, Congress enabled competition for basic telephone and data by allowing competitors to rent part of the Regional Bell Operating Companies' monopoly last-mile connections. That proved to be beneficial. At most of our business locations, the only viable network connection continues to be the one provided by the Regional Bell Operating Company or other Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier. Competitive suppliers, like Granite Telecommunications, depend on those connections to serve us. Without competitive access to those connections, the monopoly held by the Regional Bell Operating Companies over part of the business market we represent would be restored.

We wholeheartedly embrace the transition to new technologies. However, the transition should not become a subterfuge for re-monopolizing the business market. We respectfully ask the Commission to ensure that we will have competitive choices regardless of the technology transition taking place.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Schacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Schacht
Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer