

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

It has come to my attention that consumers are suffering from high special access fees. Two main service providers control America's broadband network. This gives them complete control over industry prices. Every time some uses their phone or even withdraws money from an ATM, these companies are overcharging. My name is Maria Machin, I am a civil and community leader, located in Jacksonville, and I am the founder and former President of Council 7230 at LULAC. I feel that as Hispanic business owner, leader and consumer I must begin to speak out against these industry giants.

Smaller competitor telecom companies are forced to use special access lines to handle all of the data, video, and wireless calls their customers need on a daily basis. Without any industry regulations there is nothing stopping the corporate conglomerates from continuing to raise the special access fees. Special access fees have gotten so out of control that the FCC estimates it is a \$40 billion industry on its own. Without the FCC stepping in to take action broadband prices will continue to rise.

The average consumer cannot keep supporting increased broadband prices, let alone low-income families. I have watched the low-income Hispanic community suffer from not being able to afford broadband. Parents rely on broadband to gain and keep employment, while their children need it to complete homework assignments. When families cannot afford broadband services they are forced deeper into poverty. These are hard working people who deserve a fair chance at success. However, they cannot afford to carry the burden of the special access fee marketplace.

Now is the time for the FCC to take action against overpriced special access fees. Regulations need to be put in place that will create fair competition and consumer protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Machin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Machin
North Florida Latino Representative
North Florida representative of the Valdes Civil and Human Rights Foundation, Inc.
Founder and past president of LULAC
Council 7230 (League of United Latin American Citizens).
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