

April 23, 2016

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

With all due respect, only in America could someone say with a straight face that allowing a merger of companies that already enjoy widespread de-facto regional monopolies will *increase* competition.

Only in America could someone say with a straight face that this will benefit consumers who already pay prices that would have made Bell/AT&T blush, and who will pay even higher prices due to hundreds of millions of dollars in payoffs that would not be necessary without the merger.

And only in America could someone claim that allowing this merger will demonstrate anything but the fact that we have the best government money can buy.

We have already seen how disingenuous the telecommunications giants' promises about following Net Neutrality were, if only they were freed of all these burdensome regulations. We have already seen how irrelevant their afterthought promises of improving community access are, and what they actually do once they're given absolute power over communities. Allowing the merger and pretending to be fooled yet again ("Oh my, they were dishonest about following meaningless promises they weren't legally bound to keep? How did that happen?") would fool no one.

Best regards,  
David Reynolds