

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: GN DOCKET NO. 00-185

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the owner of a small, independent ISP, I urge the Commission to promote a national, enforceable open access policy that applies to all cable operators. On behalf of In4Web.com, I am in support of an unregulated, competitive Internet by ensuring that last mile transmission facilities do not create bottlenecks which reduce competition and consumer choice. A policy of continued open access to the Internet would support consumer choice and spur rapid deployment of competitive broadband networks, benefiting the public and creating economic growth and opportunity.

Our company is a small rural internet service, providing access to about 2000 Sullivan County, NY residents. In the past we have used the POTS (plain old telephone lines) for all connections which can only provide speed of 33.6. As you can imagine people squak for more speed and the telephone company will not change the types of lines anytime soon in our area. We now offer wireless connections through towers and 2.4 gigahertz transmission. Time Warner has not alloud us to lease tower space from them because we are in competition with them.

Today, consumers choose from among thousands of companies offering an array of Internet access and content alternatives through "last-mile" platform facilities. This competitive environment has enabled thousands of entrepreneurs to innovate and compete, and the public has reaped the benefits in price and performance of Internet services. Openness and competition have also fueled dynamic investment and growth in the Internet - with more than one third of real economic growth in the U.S. coming from the information technology industry over the last several years, driven significantly by Internet innovations.

In light of this success, we urge the Commission to consider the following points:

1. The government should not allow cable operators to reverse the present policy of consumer choice by limiting access to "last mile" broadband networks.

If cable operators control their broadband networks in a way that erodes the fundamental openness of the Internet, consumers will have fewer choices in products, services, features and price. Limiting consumer choice in Internet access will block the creativity and innovation that are today the hallmark of the Internet and will introduce monopolistic practices into the open avenues of the Information Superhighway.

We urge the Commission to support consumer choice, which is the foundation of the vibrant, competitive free market that presently exists for the Internet.

2. Competition through open access to broadband networks is the key to rapid broadband investment and deployment and therefore pivotal to future economic growth.

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List A S O D E

As competitors in the Internet marketplace, we are eager to join in bringing the tremendous promise of the broadband Internet to consumers and support efforts to speed the deployment of these networks. Open access is crucial to accelerating the adoption of high speed Internet services, and remains a key factor in bringing American consumers the many benefits of broadband services. These benefits will not be fully or quickly realized if the providers of underlying, last mile, broadband transport services offer consumers only one choice - their own affiliated Internet service provider.

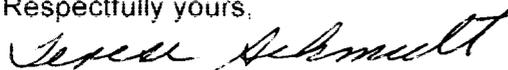
It has been a critical element of this nation's policy to develop local competition in our communications infrastructure. Open broadband cable and telecommunications platforms will permit Internet service providers to choose the lowest price, highest performance infrastructure for their service and thus stimulate competition, investment, and economic growth. And open access to broadband platforms will not impede investment - indeed, it will encourage investment, not only from companies building those platforms but from companies purchasing communications capacity to offer services over these platforms.

As a member of the openNET Coalition, we believe that a national, enforceable open access policy is required with the following minimum standards:

- Consumers of broadband cable services should have choice among multiple ISPs
- Cable broadband providers must negotiate at arms-length nondiscriminatory commercial arrangements with both affiliated ISPs and non-affiliated ISPs
- Cable operators must provide nondiscriminatory network management of their system
- ISPs should be allowed to purchase broadband backbone transport services of their choice
- ISPs should have the choice of operating on a national, regional or local basis
- Both the ISP and the cable operator should have the opportunity for a direct relationship with the consumer
- ISPs should be allowed to provide video streaming and there should be no discriminatory restrictions on provision of content

The FCC must adopt these at a minimum so that the vast potential of broadband Internet services—including services and applications we cannot yet fully imagine—is not artificially limited by the “closed” vision of any particular cable broadband provider. Further, it is insufficient to apply these elements to just one cable company. Rather, these elements must apply to all cable broadband providers nationwide in order to make the open access policy effective, and to sustain the open structure that has made the Internet a flourishing and transformative medium.

Respectfully yours,



Terese Schmidt  
In4Web.Com - co-owner