

I currently run a small ISP/WISP in Salt Lake City, Utah. In my dealings with the ILEC's, I have found their judgement to be clouded when it comes to offering timely service to their customers.

In fact, in my area, companies like Qwest, AT&T and Sprint Broadband have spent literally millions of dollars in pricing wars to put their competitors out-of-business. To date, they have spent so much accomplishing that task that they no longer have the funds, shareholder approval, or plans to roll-out cost effective Internet Access service to the thousands upon thousands of prospective customers that are clamoring for connectivity.

It would be a grave mistake indeed if the FCC and other government agencies acted as fund raisers for ILEC's who can't at least be honest about where and how they have spent their money. It is not the governments job to bail businesses out of their self-created mistakes.

As a business owner, I would appreciate a level playing field without government made obstacles and shackles.

Historically, any time the government oversteps it's boundaries and tries to be helpful, it always turns out to be disastrous. In this case, if you tax the air through which data is sent, why not tax the air the people of this great country breathe.

If the tax were going to help improve the situation, that would be one thing, but to simply pass the money to an ILEC seems to me extremely unethical, not to mention illegal.