

Any rule which creates a greater financial burden on small companies, particularly those in the ISM/UNII wireless arena is not likely, but sure to hamper the profitability (and thus the life of) those companies. CLECs and ILECs have tried to compete in this arena and failed because their organizations were rife with largesse in salaries, bonuses and opulent quarters. To visit these expenses on the successful ISPs who are now much more of a mainstay in American business than the CLECs (especially in underserved, rural areas) would be detrimental not just to ISPs, but to the nation at large. All of us in the ISP marketplace need to compete using only the tools we ourselves bring. To make us pay for someone else's tools would simply be theft because no value would be gained for the expense at all. No more polite word is available to describe it. The small business person is the backbone of this country. All Administrations have said so, and consistently. If our government and the current Administration wishes to subsidize the CLECs and ILECs, then the small businesses must be subsidized as well. But the fact is, that no subsidy is necessary. Those companies who have over extended themselves must become as fiscally responsible as we smaller businesses are, or like us, perish. Consider XO Communications, one of America's prize CLECs. The methodology which has now caused them to be the center of literally hundreds of class action suits for investors, peers and those dependent on XO to fulfill their contracts is significant. Subsidy would not have swayed this from occurring. Only Regulation of the CLECs and ILECs would. Thus, many of us believe that the failure here is a combination of the reckless spending and book manipulations of companies like Global Crossing and XO who played the system and profited hugely from it at the expense of all Americans. We find that this could happen is exacerbated by the lack of vigilance on the part of the FCC itself. To ask that we small businesses take up the financial slack for the errors in judgements leading here would be entirely inappropriate.