

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am sending you this letter in the hopes that my words, along with the words of other small ISPs, will help you to understand the potential repercussions of current rules changes your organization is now considering as we speak.

I own and operate AlphaBreeze Technologies, Inc., a small independant ISP located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. We currently service our customers with dial-up access, web site hosting and design, Internet training, networking services, and Internet-related consulting services. But our primary business is now and will hopefully always be to provide commercial and residential access to the Internet to the people of Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.

It is towards this end that I am writing to you today. You see, most people would agree that it is a foregone conclusion that current standard dial-up Internet access is a technology that is not going to be around forever. As high-speed broadband technologies continue to be introduced in more and more areas, more and more people are going to desire to move to these broadband connections.

Unfortunately, at present time, it is very difficult, if not impossible in some areas, for small independant ISPs like mine to enter the broadband market. The lack of adequate access to telephone company systems, the high cost of phone company tariffs, and the RBOC's blatant anti-competitive attitude make it nearly impossible to pursue any wide-scale broadband roll-out.

And, unfortunately, rather than the FCC jumping to the defense of the independant ISPs, the changes you are proposing will make it even more difficult for companies like mine to compete in the broadband arena.

Companies like mine are the life-blood of the Internet. There are over 7,000 small independant Internet Service Providers nationwide. If these independant companies are prevented from competing in the future, it will be a major blow to customer choice and competition.

Please see your proposed regulations for what they are - a thumbs up in support of giving the RBOCs even more monopolistic capabilities - and say NO to these new regulations. It is vital that competition in Internet access be protected and nurtured, not stomped on and destroyed.

In 1984, the U.S. government broke up AT&T because it was a monopoly in the nationwide telephone business. If the FCC passes these new regulations, the government may have new monopolies to break up in 2004 - broadband monopolies.

I hope you will do what is right and proper, and support small business in the United States.

Warmest regards,

Jason T. Ellis, CEO
AlphaBreeze Technologies, Inc.

Sincerely,

Jason T. Ellis
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