

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am the CEO of VOLstate, a local ISP serving primarily Rural East Tennessee, and, through wholesalers, serving most of the state with Dial up and ISDN services.

Started in 1996, VOLstate has a history of provideing a much higher level of service to our customers that helps them to utilize Internet Services more effectively. For instance, when a customer or business connects with us we often provide on site training and installation of their service. We also provide ongoing personal support -- we know our customers by name.

We have a staff of 5 employees and serve about 1500 customers with various levels of service. We provide service to individuals, businesses and also the local College and library.

Recently we also began offering DSL services through an interconnection with BellSouth, our local ILEC. While we believe that BellSouth's wholesale pricing model is unrealistic for profits on the DSL service alone, the combination of DSL service and Networking service makes it possible for us to provide a high level of service to our customers that the ILEC simply can not do.

If the FCC allows the ILEC to refuse interconnect to us, our service may be forced to close, stranding hundreds of customers without the service level that they have come to expect.

I believe that VOLstate, and similar small ISPs are a vital and necessary part of the Internet economy. We provide services that are impossible for larger players to provide.

Sincerely,

David Snyder  
283 First Avenue  
Dayton, TN 37321