

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Phil Schmitz and I am the CEO and president of Door Peninsula Internet, Inc., in Sturgeon Bay, WI. We began business in 1998 and presently have 1,200 customers, most of whom live and work in Door County.

We offer many services that our local phone company, Ameritech, does not. Services like free in-home setup, local training, and local tech support. We also host web sites for local non-profit groups.

When we opened for business we started, our biggest obstacle was dealing with Ameritech. It took months to negotiate a reasonable contract for phone lines and then almost a year to straighten out the billing (they ended up owing us over \$14,000 back). This process is repeated every time we add more lines. We have no CLEC other than McLeod who just resells Ameritech's lines so we have no real alternative.

Our customers constantly ask us about DSL but it is not available and I fear that Ameritech will make it financially perilous to offer it if they ever bring it to our area. This means that we are losing customers to the cable company, since more and more of our customers are demanding faster access and if we can't provide it, they'll go to someone who will. If that trend continues, Door Peninsula Internet, Inc. will not be around much longer.

I do not have the resources to fight the tariff that Ameritech has filed that allows it to get away with charging ISPs a wholesale rate of \$40 for access to the network. I believe the true cost is probably a great deal less than that. However, I also do not believe that the answer to this problem is simply to allow Ameritech to stop selling access to the network at all, or to take away the requirements that are supposed to be preventing Ameritech from discriminating.

The answer is for the FCC to make a good faith effort to uncover the discrimination (whether it is in pricing or provisioning) and put an end to it. Until the FCC has demonstrated that it is willing to do this for ISPs, any talk about lifting the rules for monopolies like Ameritech is premature.

I hope that you will take my comments seriously - I am sending a copy of this letter to my Congressman as well.

Sincerely,

Philip J Schmitz, President
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