

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

Hello,

My name is Jean-Michel Smith. I am writing to you regarding your reconsideration of the rules that require telephone companies to provide ISPs access to the public switched phone network. Removal of these requirements would be a grave mistake.

I and millions others like me depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. If you choose to remove my ISP's access to the public phone network, it will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply force independent ISPs out of business and will do nothing but LIMIT consumer choice not expand it.

Furthermore, by removing fair interconnection requirements and reducing our choice, you will likely also allow consumer rates to rise. By having a current choice among several providers, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for best price. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition and increased prices for consumers in the long run.

I sincerely hope you will consider carefully what you are doing. Monopolies are a tremendous disservice to the public, and telco monopolies have been some of the biggest offenders. Were there time and space in this letter I would regale you with stories of my local telco monopoly, Ameritech, and how they deliberately broke my phone service to drum up repair charges and ran interference for my DSL ISP. Suffice it to say that if you grant these telcos what they want it is the small startup businesses and individuals like myself who will be harmed, with less choice, higher prices, and abysmally poor service as a result.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs' access to the public telephone networks, thereby protecting the rights of millions of citizen users like me.

Sincerely,

Jean-Michel Smith
531 S. Plymouth Court, Unit 601
Chicago, IL 60605