

Late Filing

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Georgia Mewhinney. I own a tiny retail business that I am working to expand into the internet. I am writing to you regarding your consideration of dropping the requirement that the telephone companies be obliged to provide ISPs access to (their networks). This requirement would be a grave mistake.

I, and millions of others like myself, depend on my local Internet Service Provider. It gives us access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. Most importantly, it provides someone who actually cares about my business' success. If you choose to remove my ISPs access to the (telephone network) they will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. We will be forced to rely on impersonal tech support that could, under some circumstances be in a foreign country! With independent ISPs forced out of business cusumer choices will be limited and local economies will suffer.

Furthermore, by removing the requirement and reducing our choice, you will likely also allow consumer rates to rise. I know my rates will immediately double simply because I 'shopped' before making my choice. 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 the best price. I also know by experience that services I currently receive are far superior to others offered. I currently deal with a company who is local and supports my interests and the betterment of my community.

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.

My business is small and even a minute increase in costs could be the one that puts me out of business.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully about what you are considering. Consumers all across America are depending on you to make the decision to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace not limit it. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs and not through their destruction.

Far to many quality businesses and small industries have been gobbled up by huge corporations supporting foreign interests who really have no community ties or obligations to local growth or reason to provide the best service for the individual.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs access to the public telephone networks and thereby protecting the right of individuals, like myself, to choose personal service over impersonal corporate giants.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Georgia Mewhinney

Sincerely,

Georgia Mewhinney  
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