

My name is Lynn Lucarelli and 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 consumers' choice, not expand it. As in my case and the people that live in my area, we would have no choices with the large telephone carriers that would be affordable, since they DO NOT offer internet service with local dial up numbers.

Also speaking as an employee of a local Internet Service Provider, the impact would be hard felt through out our community and many communities nation wide. We supply service to a range of users that depend on the internet for communication with family, educational purposes, business and entertainment. With the possibility of a local ISP being driven out of business due to the possible changes that are being looked into, many people will be effected in a negative manner. Not to mention that this will put many people out of work and cause hardships for many families. This will also effect the local economy since many people will be unemployed.

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. Affordability is an issue for the consumer. The ability to have choices is also an issue that will be raised in many rural areas since the large phone carriers do not supply local access numbers to the internet. Not only will our ability to shop around for an ISP to meet our needs for our usage, but finding one that will supply the user with local access numbers will close to impossible at this time. Therefore taking away their privilege to enjoy the internet as they are accustomed to.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers all across America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs - not by handing even more market power to the monopolies who control our phone network.

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