

The LECs operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning stimulates competition and benefits consumers. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

Right now cable is taking over for a variety of reasons. AT&T recently raised broadband rates in Utah, but ONLY for customers that do not subscribe to other cable services or AT&T digital phone services. I, as a small business owner often get calls from people who are unhappy with AT&T and their rate hikes and want to get DSL but they can't because they were drawn into subscribing for AT&T digital phone and put on a contract and are now optionless unless they pay even more. If you can not see that this is bad for the consumer and bad for small businesses and ISPs that are trying to offer some form of broadband services and ONLY a positive thing for AT&T, well sir then you have been on your high chair for fair too long. It has been proven time and time again, that the best way to foster growth, and research and development, and what is best for consumers is fair competition, you will essentially be eliminating this if you continue with this crap. ISP's *must* be allowed to compete in the cable internet access arena. It has already been disastrous for many ISPs.