

The LECs operate an "essential facility." In order to accommodate competition, other ISP firms need to have the ability to purchase access from LECs at wholesale. This wholesale provisioning benefits consumers and stimulates competition. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act, intended to nurture competition and the development of this still young technology. Chairman Powell: Please consider enhancing competition in this developing technological market. Require Bells to continue to provide equal access to their "essential facility."