

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

My own personal experience has been one where I greatly value being able to choose my service provider. I initially tried my area's LEC and the service was very poor. They were not responsive to problems and acted as if customer service was a low priority for them. When I switched to an ISP, the situation changed. While I am paying pretty much a comparable rate, the level of satisfaction I have with my service is much higher. I am in effect receiving MORE service for the same price. Please do not take my options as a consumer away.