

Cable companies operate a monopoly when it comes to cable broadband service. Due to the limitations of DSL and the cessation of operations of DirectWay, broadband choices for consumers are generally limited to cable in many locations. By allowing a monopoly to exist on cable modem ISP's, consumers are placed in a non-competitive situation. For example, in Fairfax County, VA, residents who use the cable company video services obtain cable modem services for \$29.99 while non-video cable service customers (I.e. those subscribing for only broadband internet) pay \$49.99. The cable company has exclusive access to the customers and charges them nearly twice as much for service as customers for other services. By allowing multiple ISPs on a cable broadband network, the cable companies would be encouraged to lower prices due to the increased competition and customers would have better access to the Internet.