

The CATV system was mostly built by small independents, which were subsidized with guaranteed 'exclusive' market access by localities around the country. As such, even still a citizen in a given location often has no choice of cable access carrier, and is forced to choose between the one available which has a geographic monopoly, or none.

The cable carriers should be required to provide equal access to any broadband provider that desires to provide service in any area, and should be prohibited from making exclusive arrangements, or adopting restrictive policies which effectively establish yet another, parallel, geographic monopoly. The physical wiring plant forms a 'natural' monopoly, to which access should be regulated to prevent it from supporting an unnatural monopoly in the provision of services carried by it - fair and equal access for all comers, large or small. I would be so bold as to suggest that an *individual* citizen, should have the right to establish an individual 'virtual' connection to another individual citizen in order to exchange data at high speed with that citizen. Broadband Internet should *not* be visualized as a one-to-many, top down system - the Internet was designed to be many-to-many, with no 'top' or 'bottom'