

I currently obtain my DSL service from an independent ISP based in Santa Rosa, CA (sonic.net) I chose to subscribe to sonic.net's DSL service, rather than that of the local phone company (SBC), because sonic.net provides a technically better service and their technical support was known to be exceptional. In addition, their DSL package provides better value than that of SBC; for example, it includes VPN capabilities, which makes it possible for me to securely access the internet while using any number of wireless "hotspots".

In recent years, the price of DSL service has come down substantially, and I believe this is a direct result of competition between the phone companies and independent ISPs. If the local phone companies are able to exclude independent ISPs from providing DSL service, I have no doubt that I would see higher prices, reduced technical capabilities, and poorer customer service.

I feel that granting BellSouth's requests would make it impossible for independent ISPs to provide DSL service at a reasonable price. For this reason, I urge you to reject BellSouth's Petition. Thank you.