

The FCC should NOT stop regulating broadband service.

BellSouth's contention that because they are already the majority shareholder in their Internet Service Provider market and that it won't make any difference to snuff out their competition is one of the most backward arguments I've ever heard. It is in fact, the exact reason to make sure these checks and balances stay in place to allow small local ISPs the ability to compete in the marketplace and offer services at a local level.

Here are some concrete reasons that I, as a small business owner, would suffer and what I need for the FCC to take into account.

FACT: My local ISP offers more services for the same price than SBC (our local version of BellSouth).

- I have multiple static IP address for no additional charge.
- I have a business account with web hosting for less than what SBC charges for these services.
- I have larger hard drive space for my website and more throughput than SBC offers.
- My local ISP offers much better customer service with much lower wait times for technical support as well as on the spot problem solving.

If large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing, small business owners will lose. As it is, right now, today, the large phone companies are not as competitive as some of the smaller ISPs. To do away with small businesses' choice to use a different vendor for broadband services allows companies like BellSouth to be even less competitive and raise prices at-will with no oversight.

I urge the FCC to refuse this obvious power grab by the behemoth phone companies and to look at the big picture as VOIP and other emerging technologies change the landscape of what is at stake in the delivery of broadband services.

Respectfully yours,

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