

This country is fast loosing its freedom for which I stand. I do not want to be told I have no choice when it comes to who provides internet service for my small rural Texas area. This is not fair. It is not fair to those who can provide great IS at great prices to be told they can no longer operate a legitimate business that has been supporting their family and local community. Some of these folks go to college to learn to provide internet/computer service. If they have to shut down just because the big guys want all the pie then I think the cost of education should be re-imbursed right down to every last penny. I also think they should be forced to open local offices in every town and the money forced to stay here. I also think if they want to shut down the small guy then they should give their employees a job in this local office. Furthermore, it is not fair to tell me who I have to choose. It is my business who I choose to provide my IS and I strongly resent my freedom being threatened just because the big guys don't make the buck from my business. The benefits I enjoy from my local independent ISP far outweigh the best the big guys will ever provide.

To name a few: A local office I can walk into and get a warm, friendly, smiling face to greet me by name and not treat me coldly. I am treated with warm "neighborly service", "Mayberry town service" all the time. Customer service at my ISP is 100% better than some cold answering machine which will never make parr in my opinion.

Service is fast- I do not have to wait days or weeks for my questions and concerns to be addressed. My ISP provides same day service. I am never put on hold. My ISP is currently working on projects to allow me to access my mail box when away from my home station and is also working on senoir citizens discount. My ISP is a great supporter of our community. Our money stays local and that is the most important issue for me and my family. We love our small town and we love the folks that provide our IS. In fact, if I am forced to accept the service of AT&T, Sprint, Verizon or any other "big guy" I just won't use the internet. I am not pleased with the home/cell phone service. The big guys get too big to provide the small town service that my family appreciates the most. Greed is the name of their game. What they don't realize is they are cutting the throats of small town development. Not everybody wants to pack up and move out of these small towns. More is at stake than just IS if the phone companies have their way. There is nothing wrong with them offering the service as competition. What has happened is they can't compete with the small guy in providing great service and they do not like it.

I sincerely request that you vote in favor of keeping all of our ISP's in business. For many, they are part of the heartbeat of their community. Figuritively speaking, to shut them down would mean that community would suffer a "heart attack".

Thank you,  
The Holstines