

To the FCC Commissioners:

The United States is quickly falling into "developing nation" status regarding broadband. The television franchise process vehicle is what we currently use to govern broadband deployment. With that in mind, I have two viewpoints I'd like to express regarding Verizon's objection to "level playing field" laws, and the "outrageous demands by some LFAs".

1) "Level playing field" laws are extremely important, particularly when you consider how uneven Verizon's current DSL coverage is. Although your data may not reveal it, "black holes" exist even in urban, highly populated areas such as my neighborhood in Rockville Maryland. Without "level playing field" laws in place, it's possible that Verizon's fiber-to-the-premise project will be deployed even more unevenly than DSL. Since Verizon has already begun deployment in areas surrounding my neighborhood, it's highly unlikely a different provider will decide to enter this market. So I could remain in a "black hole" indefinitely if "level playing field" laws are eliminated.

2) The FCC has already placed strict limitations on what an LFA may reasonably bargain for. If LFAs are bargaining for something outside these limits, then I would suggest stricter enforcement, not a rule change. However, if the items an LFA can reasonably bargain for are outdated, then by all means update the list, but an LFAs should retain the ability to obtain proper compensation from a provider for the use of public property. This is an enormous privilege.

Thank you,
Jaime Todaro