

The Federal Communications Commission should stop broadband companies from locking consumers into long-term contracts with high termination fees.

We're told there's choice in broadband. But most of us have just two options for high speed Internet; our cable or our telephone company. Now those companies want to tie us down with long-term contracts and costly cancellation penalties of up to \$200 to stop us from switching to a better service. That's not competition!

Broadband providers usually serve defined territories. I may even have to pay the penalty if I simply move out of their service area. I have always had my phone service and my cable service provided on a month-to-month basis. Now that they also offer broadband, why should I suddenly face complicated long term contracts and high termination fees? None of this makes any sense.

DSL providers routinely require long-term contracts when they offer short-term promotional rates, even if those special rates expire during the contract term. Some of them require contracts for equipment discounts, but charge cancellation penalties that seem much higher than the cost of the equipment.

Meanwhile, cable providers offer discounted bundles of telephone, broadband and video service, but jack up the price for the remaining services if I cancel one of them during the contract term. Why should I pay my own company a fee when their poor service drove me to seek service elsewhere?

That very effectively cancels out competition and they effectively get a monopoly as usual--by hook or by crook! Speaking of "crook"-- it is criminal the prices charged per month for a cable box that you have no choice to get for digital service even if you don't subscribe to the "premium" channels.

And I am tired of channels being "promoted" to the digital lineup. I have basic cable in order to not incur the converter box charges, but as Comcast keeps moving channels out of my lineup, I feel I will be forced to not have cable. (I already use an over-the-air antenna to receive some channels that Comcast removed from my basic cable line-up. If they are available over-the-air, why is Comcast allowed to move them to the EVEN higher price subscription?

It's time for FCC to require broadband companies to compete on quality and price and give me the ability to switch when they fall short.