

Reply to comments of Bandwidth Consulting:

In their comments it is stated "The use of exclusive access agreements by Operators in the multi-family market segment has been very helpful in promoting competition among players in the arena." The development in which I live, Live Oak Preserve (LOP) in Tampa, is currently "served" by one of these exclusive agreements and how it benefits competition escapes me. This 15 year exclusive contract was established by Transeastern Homes with its subsidiary Century Communications. There was no competition with any of the local providers. The contract was set up by the developer-controlled HOA through mandatory dues. How could a local provider compete with that situation? Even today, the HOA frequently denies homeowners' request to put DirectTV or Dish receivers on rooftops. While Verizon overbuilt the development recently, they are finding their only customers are those who can afford the duplicate TV service or MUST take Verizon's internet to get the speed required for working at home. Brighthouse, the dominant provider in Tampa, still has not overbuilt LOP. One can only assume because of the 15 year waiting period they face before getting customers in numbers to make a profit.

Bandwidth Consulting adds "This allows the PCO to offer specialized services to a community which benefits the property owner and his apartment residents with better service." I don't consider poor programming choices, frequent outages during inclement weather, incorrect blackouts of local pro-sports, few HD channels, incompatibility with services such as TIVO, slow and unreliable internet, etc. as benefits from this PCO. And service, or lack thereof, is a joke. Century has no incentive, DIRECTLY BECAUSE OF THE EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT, to make corrections to the problems just stated.

Exclusive contracts are detrimental to competition and I hope are voided by the Commission.