

I would like to lodge a formal complaint against Verizon for refusing to grant DSL access through their phone lines. I live in the Carr Creek area of Sandpoint, Idaho and even though the lines are in place and would require little modification to use for broadband, Verizon refuses to do so. Is this how it is in every rural area in America, or is our area special? In either case, it's a shame.

Verizon wants us to wait for fiber optic cable, which may never reach outlying areas or may be cost-prohibitive to some. We already paid to run power and phone cables some distance from the nearest highway, and unlike fiber optics, THESE CABLES ALREADY EXIST AND ARE IN PLACE. Supposedly, they'd only have to install a computer card in the local switching station to establish service for us.

For many of us without a clear southern exposure and no cell reception, DSL remains our only option for broadband.

The state of Idaho allocated money through a grant to promote the establishment of DSL--money that stands to be wasted unless things change.

Furthermore, in these times of economic decline, DSL could be a great model for recovery. Where else can such a small investment yeild such great rewards?

Isn't there in existance a national broadband policy that seeks to ensure broadband access for all Americans?

Please help us with this,

Ed Ohlweiler