

My name is Melvin Banks, and I am a concerned citizen, avid internet - telephone - DSL -computer user, with interests in the arts, specifically music production, distribution, and sales. City of Philadelphia, PA , South Philadelphia (Point Breeze).

I am self-employed, Philly Streetz Music..independent Hip-Hop, R&B, Pop music production, distribution, and sales. Two year-old business in Economic Empowerment Zone for economically distressed areas. One album published in 2007. Collaborations with other artists.

Today, access to the internet is tantamount to the usage of telephone services in pre-2000s; the ubiquitous connection of communications choice, a melding of the computing industry and telephone network. Thus, my access to internet access, is critical to the success of the operation of my business and in my personal life. I currently utilize a A.T.& T. DSL-broadband connection over a Verizon voice line. Currently, I am required to have 2 connections: voice Line & DSL connection (voice line exclusive Verizon domain, subject to FCC review) If interrupted, alternative option limited to cable.

Competition is severely limited in my neighborhood due to ownership of the local access network dominance by Verizon Communications. The company has severely underfunded its capital network investments in pursuit of increased earnings on Wall Street for its FiOS fiber-optic service. Neighborhood service outages can be severe during rainy weather.

Competition is limited as any alternate provider, except cable, would require leasing Verizon network facilities. Limited pricing options. Utilizing A.T&T DSL costs \$49.95 per month.

I feel that having access to the internet is tantamount to basic telephone service pre-2000. Having the ability to create and share, whether globally -or more selectively makes internet access an essential element to life. ISPs should have the authority to take reasonable actions to prevent unauthorized filesharing.

I support the FCC policies to make broadband more available, in fact, I encourage more stringent measures given its importance. The FCC should more effectively utilize the End-User Access fees collected to encourage re-investment in the nation's infrastructure. Most of the nation's telephone and cable infrastructure is Pre-1970s, and thus encouraging the upgrade of that infrastructure strengthens the ability of the industry to be more competitive by more technological connectivity.

Net neutrality rules should not apply to internet access on wireless networks, as these networks are secondary networks to the primary telephone POTS system; and are unlikely to supplant the internet data/speed capabilities available via a network access connection in the next 20 years. In support of national security, maintenance and growth of fixed-network access lines should be encouraged, as these portals by virtue of access points, are better suited to handle the computing and data needs of individual households, especially to the urban, young, elderly, and disadvantaged populace.

Protecting speech and expression should remain in the forefront of all FCC proceedings. It is essential that ISPs not infringe upon any constitutional right.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my views on this critical issue.