

If the U.S. Federal Communications Commission is serious about expanding broadband deployment it should implement policies encouraging the expansion of community broadband networks and urge legislators in the states and U.S. Congress not to cripple community broadband networks like WiscNet in Wisconsin which AT&T has been trying to destroy because they don't like the competition from such community broadband networks. We are experiencing attacks on community broadband even by Time Warner Cable in North Carolina. In Wisconsin AT&T using a front group Access Wisconsin that has a deceptive name by the way is trying to destroy a municipal, community broadband network. Reading a SaveTheInternet.com blog post on the topic discovered a comment from a frustrated user trying to access the internet using a public network that got an error from Cox Communications -- the user is not a customer of Cox which should not be messing with their internet connection. That being said as important as broadband deployment is we also need the FCC to actively mandate and promote competition to give consumers more choice in broadband providers resulting in lower prices and improved service and higher broadband adoption. I know the FCC is at work on USF reform to make Universal Service Funds go toward broadband expansion now. USF reform in that case should not enable big companies to pad their pockets with more money. No taxpayer subsidies going to maintain the wire-line broadband duopoly system or oligopoly wireless system that could become a duopoly in the absence of national carriers Sprint Nextel and/or T Mobil USA. Any company that accepts public spectrum or money to build out their broadband network or expand it should also have to comply with Network Neutrality rules of nondiscrimination whether they are offering wire-line Internet service or mobile broadband.