

Just as phone companies with DSL Internet are required to sell stand-alone broadband cable companies should also be required to offer standard broadband and standard wire-line phone service for those who depend on fixed Internet and/or phone service. The FCC has required as part of the Comcast NBC merger conditions that for some period of years Comcast supply a standard broadband service without digital cable TV or phone bundled. This rule should indefinitely apply to all cable companies and the FCC should extend the requirement of how long Comcast must sell standard broadband for a few more years as part of its approval process for the Verizon Cable deals in which Comcast is involved. Also big telcos like Verizon transitioning away from DSL to fiber services like FIOS should not be allowed to discontinue basic broadband services with the FIOS and AT&T U-Verse transitions. Consumers should be able to get basic FIOS broadband without FIOS TV or FIOS Internet or similarly U-Verse Internet without TV or phone if they need or want it that way.