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Much of the debate about this merger focuses on Net Neutrality. I direct my comments at a more fundamental issue: Competition. Comcast has argued that this merger does not hurt competition because Comcast and TWC do not compete in any markets. This is the fundamental problem with the ISP market today.

I have exactly 1 choice in my market for Internet service greater than 5mbps: TWC. Without competition, customers lack choice which leads to a monopoly industry that is no longer beholden to its customers. TWC and Comcast are beholden to the different levels of the US government not the individual consumer. I have no recourse or option if I'm unhappy with TWC, I can choose to purchase their broadband internet connection or go without, there is no comparable competitor. Google Fiber's entry into the consumer broadband market has shown what truly competitive forces create: change.

If the FCC approves this merger, the conditions placed on it should not focus (only) on Net Neutrality but on competition. Comcast has already pledged to sell some of its existing customers to rivals and even create a spin-off company to handle some customers. All in the name of maintaining subscriber numbers below an arbitrary threshold to keep the impression of a non-monopoly and its government customers happy.

Instead, I would propose that the FCC might allow Comcast and TWC to merge, but require that their customers be split between 2 geographically competitive entities that must compete for the same customers. Only competition will provide consumers choice. Let free market forces make these two behemoths improve their products and customer service in ways that government regulations have been unable to achieve thus far. Force them to compete on a level playing field. Even declare (or suggest) that geographic non-competition is anti-trust collusion.

Google Fiber's entrance to the consumer broadband markets highlights that what America needs from telecommunication services is competition, not more regulation. Force ISP's to compete against each other rather than carving out their own geographic fiefdoms and holding customers captive with no viable alternatives! Thank you for your time and attention.