

'JUL 28 2014

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**Subject:** Chattanooga's EPB fiber optics

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing because I am a small business owner who for a year has been requesting Chattanooga's EPB to provide me and others service. Their fiber optic line ends 3/8 of a mile from my small wholesale plant business. Imagine my surprise when our electric company and EPB told me that they would provide us service by working together, but a state law passed in 1999 prevented that. The law was designed to protect telecommunications businesses. Imagine my being without ANY form of internet for my business for 15 years in the name of protecting big business! There are hot spots and satellite services but both have shortcomings at our location. I am forced to use an iphone, an amazing device, but tiny.

I have now formed a group in our neighborhood of about 200 households. In our group there is a lady who lost her medical transcription job because she works from home and could not meet speed requirements because her satellite speed service was too slow. A neighbor's poultry business is at great risk due to their forced dependance on hot spot communication links. Their hot spot alarm system failed twice last winter nearly causing a large loss of young chicks due to the very cold weather. College students drive to McDonald's to use wi-fi, and work from their cars to do homework and projects. This situation is choking business and making our children third class citizens

We need to enter the 21st century like our city dwelling friends. We have the beginning agreements in hand as how we can accomplish this. All we need is the level playing field legislation that will allow business to progress. We have been told there are at least twenty (20) states that also struggle with state passed legislation protecting big telecommunication companies. Territories have been assigned to these giants which they are supposed to service but they choose to not to because of the economics. It is far more lucrative for them to sell hot spot service to those that can find no other alternative. Therefore we say, If they don't want to provide service to us, we ask that the hindering legislation be removed that will allow others to explore the feasibility of doing so. Business owners, adults, and school children of all ages in these rural areas of the country are counting on fair minded legislators to provide the level playing field we so desperately need.

So I am writing to say "Thank you" for the steps which you are taking with EPB. I have always been for free enterprise, but when some business win due to unfair protection, free enterprise dies.

Respectfully yours,
Joyce Coltrin, J & J Nursery,
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