

Regarding FCC dockets 14-115 and 14-116, I would like to express my support for any action the FCC can take in enabling municipalities to create community-owned internet service providers. Right now almost all cities in the US have only one or two wireline internet providers, and these providers have not worked aggressively enough to deserve to continue the state-sanctioned monopolies they are being given. The US should be leading the world in internet speeds, but instead we have let other countries surpass us by a long shot. It isn't adequate to continue relying on this handful of private companies to give us something that is so incredibly important to our future, especially as the biggest ones continue trying to merge and treat customers even more poorly.

Broadband availability outside of municipalities is another area where incumbent ISPs have dragged their feet in a huge way. Although phone and electricity services are nearly universal in the US, broadband internet access has not enjoyed that ubiquity. Municipal broadband offers a lot of promise in bringing internet service to these underserved areas.

Laws that prohibit municipalities from creating their own ISPs do nothing to further any public or government interest. These laws clearly are getting passed because incumbent ISPs wield a disproportionate amount of influence on state Congresses, and the result is that consumers lose and ISPs get increasingly better profit margins from networks they spend far too little money investing in. I implore the FCC to do everything in its power to stop these laws from being enforced, so that the United States may later have the chance to say it has the best internet interconnectivity in the world.