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<http://motherboard.vi ce. com/read/hundreds-of-ci ti es-are-wi red-wi th-fi berbut-tel ecom-lobbyi ng-keeps-i t-unused>

Quotes:

(1) "Throughout the country, companies like Comcast, Time Warner Cable, CenturyLink, and Verizon have signed agreements with cities that prohibit local governments from becoming internet service providers and prohibit municipalities from selling or leasing their fiber to local startups who would compete with these huge corporations."

(2) "In Washington DC, for instance, the country's first 100 Gbps fiber network has been available to nonprofit organizations since 2006—but not to any of the city's residents. During a re-negotiation with Comcast in 1999 in which the company threatened to cut off cable service to the city, Comcast agreed to provide some of its fiber access to the city for the government's "exclusive use."

The rent Wall Street charges for trading bonds is so high that they are sold in large blocks putting them out of reach of individuals limiting who decides what gets funded to a relatively small number of individuals.

<http://tcf.org/bl og/detai l/graph-how-the-fi nanci al -sector-consumed-ameri cas-economi c-growth>

Services exist to build a low-overhead mini-bond trading platform that can be used by companies, cities and states to raise capital for infrastructure without Wall Street's overhead. A participati on loan market sharing risk between banks and individuals can also be built (e. g. see Kiva.org).

<http://www. bl oomberg. com/news/2011-09-07/brown-si gns-bi l l -authori zi ng-25-cal i forni a-mi ni bonds-to-l ure-i nvestors. html>

Limiting who decides what gets financed invites corruption. Crowdfunding through mini-bonds, participati on loans, etc. adds individual choice back to finance.

<http://www. crowdcube. com/pg/ei s-sei s-tax-rel i ef-overvi ew-43>

Corporations buy favor with politicians because that's where the (taxpayers') money is. Laws are written to give a few the ability to finance. We can all see the result.

A U.K. village crowdfunding its own 1 Gbps symmetric fiber Internet network:

<http://motherboard.vi ce. com/read/thi s-rural -communi ty-i s-bui l di ng-i ts-own-gi gabi t-fi bre-network>

<http://b4rn.org.uk/>

<http://b4gal.org.uk/node/6>

Compare that to what is happening in Washington D.C. and in hundreds of cities around the U.S. (nothing).

Given the cause of the financial crisis, Wall Street cannot credibly say that

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crowdfunding is more dangerous than Wall Street. We left finance up to the "experts" (not through any choice of our own) and look what happened. On top of that, they set up a system where individuals cannot decide what gets financed.

The focus of individuals living in the U.S. is the U.S.. The focus of the relative few on Wall Street is global. By their numbers alone, individuals have more interest in improving the country than the few focused on quarterly profits.

When you take individual choice out of finance, you lose the most motivated people who want to improve the country's infrastructure.

Much more broadband Internet infrastructure (and other types of infrastructure) would be built if cities and states could crowdfund the finance of infrastructure through mini-bonds.