

Gigabyte March

Americans will lose choice!

Two Forbearance petitions recently filed by Southwestern Bell (SBC) and Qwest to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will remove the first tier of Internet infrastructure and destroy telecommunications competition. If the FCC grants these petitions, our nation will experience another technology bust that will derail our nation's economic recovery and jeopardize thousands of businesses and their employees.

On December 10th, 2004 the Washington Bureau for ISP Advocacy (WBIA), in partnership with American Association of Internet Service Providers, Frontiers of Freedom, the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), CompTel/ASCENT, TeleTruth, Brand X Networks, the National Internet Alliance (NIA), the Telework Coalition, Capitol Telecommunications Professionals (CTP), Rural Broadband Coalition (RBC), Power Line Communications Association (PLCA), the California Internet Service Providers Association (CISPA), Tri-State Broadband and the North Texas Technology Council (NTTC) will launch a virtual Gigabyte March, www.gigabyltemarch.org, on Washington, D.C.

Our goal is to build a grassroots groundswell of business and consumer voices expressing their views and demanding that the FCC first consider the intrinsic value to our nation's economy made by the presence of the independent service provider before granting any Forbearance petitions.

By signing onto the Gigabyte March at <http://www.gigabyltemarch.com/signonhtm.php> and providing a simple one or two sentence explanation about why granting the Bell monopoly petition is a bad idea we will be able to ensure that all of our voices are heard!

10 Reasons why granting the SBC and Qwest Petitions by the FCC will be bad for America!

1. ISP businesses will be shut out!

Independent ISP's could be put out of business. Millions of investment dollars spent by these contributors to building our nations Internet infrastructure will be non-recoverable and lost forever.

2. Thousands of jobs will be put risk!

Independent ISP's and thousands of associated businesses may be forced to layoff thousands of employees.

3. The impact on small business will be devastating!

Small business is the backbone of our nation's economy. Seven out of ten new jobs are created by small business and many of those small businesses' rely on the specialized and personalized services provided by local, independently owned and operated ISP's. Without choice, these businesses will be forced to cope with limited or no choice and a future promising higher retail prices with a lower level of service and a decline in optional service offerings.

2. ISP personalized service will evaporate!

Many independent ISP's provide small, medium and large businesses with personalized technology support and resources that help business grow. Telephone companies are not equipped nor do they desire to provide the specialized care that many small businesses require.

3. Expanded ISP services will be compromised!

Independent ISP's offer much more than just dial-up, high-speed data and broadband; services such as Web hosting, Web development, co-location and managed server hosting, technical support, training and learning, extranets, intranets and portals, just to name a few.

4. American jobs will be jeopardized!

Not only for the ISP's who may be forced out of business, but those businesses who design, develop and innovate new products and services that are introduced through the first tier of connectivity to the Internet, the independent ISP. New startup businesses will be forced to cope with fewer resources and sales channels.

www.Gigabyltemarch.org

For more information contact

Cynthia H. de Lorenzi

703-797-1888 x211

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5. Technology innovation will be stifled!

Technology innovation will be stifled and hampered. Collectively, independents have spent millions of dollars in developing and deploying telecommunications networks and providing innovative new services for millions of consumers and much more through open source initiatives. The promise of advanced technologies and investment dollars may be unrecoverable and lost forever.

6. 30 million customers left out in the cold!

By analysts' figures, some 30 million consumers today use independent service providers and the Telco's are not equipped to handle that influx of business on an overnight basis. The capitol investment required to quickly assume and service those customers will far out-weigh the cost of savings in the proposed regulatory changes.

7. A bad time to derail our economic recovery!

This ruling may possibly derail our faltering economic recovery and potentially drive us into a recession as well as a decline in our Nations stock market. Foreign investment will turn elsewhere in the world where technology and economic growth is advancing.

8. Homeland Security vulnerability!

Most importantly, our nation's homeland defenses will be put at risk. With the consolidation of our nations' entire Internet infrastructure, companies that provided specialized support and services to our nation's most sensitive communications will leave those special needs without a home. Foreign nations continually attempt to sabotage our nation's Internet infrastructure. Through consolidation we will be made more vulnerable to an attack that could compromise our entire Internet communications systems.

9. Competition will be stifled!

Since the FCC's Triennial Review our nation has fallen from number one in ranking as a global technology leader to fifteen. Returning to a monopolistic environment by consolidating our telecom infrastructure into a duopoly, we would lose the very thing that has been the driving force of our nations strong technology based economy.

10. American consumers left with higher prices!

Ultimately, Americans will be left with higher prices, a potential recession, a decline in American technology innovation and exposure to our nation's homeland defenses

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