

Advocacy Comments to FCC on the Business Broadband Marketplace

The Office of Advocacy recognizes the vital role that small business providers play in creating a vibrant market for broadband that will better serve small business consumers. With this understanding in mind, Advocacy has been working closely with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and industry representatives to address the challenges small broadband providers face in the market.

On October 15, 2010, Advocacy filed public comments with the FCC in response to its request for comments on the business broadband marketplace. The comments followed an October 5th roundtable that Advocacy hosted with a group of individuals representing small and competitive broadband providers. No matter the broadband transmission technology used, all participants expressed concerns regarding barriers to greater market participation for their firms.

Advocacy urged the FCC to move forward on policy decisions that will encourage further small business participation in the broadband market and foster competition necessary for successful universal broadband deployment. Specifically, Advocacy's comments discussed the following issues:

- the impact of availability and affordability of middle mile infrastructure access on the ability of competitive broadband providers to enter the market;
- the importance of preserving legacy copper networks and concerns about how the pace of copper retirement and limited access to other last mile facilities affect competition and consumer choice;
- access to wireless spectrum and potential problems regarding the lack of mandated device interoperability across the 700 MHz zone; and,
- the impact of proposed reforms of utility pole attachment regulations on cable broadband providers.

A complete copy of Advocacy's comments can be found at www.sba.gov/advo. Please contact Jamie Belcore Saloom at Jamie.Belcore@sba.gov or (202) 205-6533 if you would like more information.