

08/27/19 15:31

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From: [Forbes Mercy](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#); [Roth, Jing \(UTC\)](#); [Bennett, Sean \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Our Official Comment on UT-190437 CRM:0003314
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 2:15:44 PM

I would love to provide an extensive comment to your document, you have improperly stated several points in the law the first and foremost lumping us in with Telecommunication companies with "support small rural incumbent telephone companies", the Internet is NOT a phone company and I went to great lengths in advocating on this bill through my legislators to make sure that separation was clear. It took you just a few paragraphs to immediately lump us in with Telephone Companies.

We are an information service completely separated from the requirements of telecommunication law. The FCC has included ISP's into the FSUF/CAF bidding without classifying us as telecommunication and I expect Washington State to do the same. If your intention is to use this law to force ISP's to file all the institutionalized reports and be forced under decades old outdated regulations I can assure you we will object at every corner.

The major difference between Internet Service Providers and the Telecom industries is that they are heavily subsidized and the Internet was almost completely developed with private money, almost no Internet provider has taken a dollar from the government unless they were a subscriber for service. That in itself means that any control the government puts on the Internet is essentially a regulatory eminent domain over something you contributed nothing into but want control of it.

My fear is that as a government agency in a state that believes in total control of all business you will stagnate the growth of the organic Internet and seek to turn it into a public funded agency, I know that's what the Governor wants, he's so much as said so and his heavy support of the legally questionable NOANET, the consortium of Public Utility Districts illegally selling to retail outlets.

You no more deserve to chart the course of my company than I have to control your personal choices and this document, what I have read of it is a gross mischaracterization of the actual bill that was passed. Your use of only telecom companies as your advisors further shows the corruption in what should be something to help the public is only about control and making sure that the Form 477 data is ignored, that Indian nations get priority over existing built networks and that the Telecom industry gets first pitch of all monies distributed or in our wish NOT distributed such as CenturyLink is currently being paid by CAF to build a fiber network in a town where I deliver a cable system of 100mbps.

So are you a government agency that's about just control or about what's best for the public? ISP's should have a heavy presence on your proposed board if for nothing else to keep phone companies from overbuilding and getting government money to build what they don't want to, plus much of CAF goes to their stockholders, what a rip off!

I guess the initial writing of UT-190437 says you're about control and forcing the Internet under government rule. As a retired civil servant I sure hope that's not true

because how will we keep faith in government with their thumb on our free thoughts and ideas. If you won't go after the content providers why are we your easy target?

Forbes Mercy
President - Washington Broadband, Inc.

On 8/9/2019 12:56 PM, Document Service Queue wrote:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) served the following document(s), regarding Docket Number(s) 190437, on 8/9/2019 12:53 PM

We attach a courtesy copy of the above document(s). Please do not reply to this e-mail. If you have any questions regarding this e-mail, please contact the UTC Records Center, at records@utc.wa.gov.