

As the director of a small Texas FreeNet, I don't pretend to understand the technical jargon behind a proceeding like this. What I do understand, however, is getting people who don't have access to community networks hooked up. My community has a large percentage of poor minorities, who don't have access to computers or Internet hookups. In wiring them we cannot afford to string T1 lines, and pay the local phone company thousands of dollars every month to give them access. We need solutions that are cheap and solutions that work. Unlicensed radio is perfect for our purposes, if we could get a product that went the distance and was available at a low enough price point. By opening up the regulations on these sorts of radios, and allowing manufacturers to produce radios, you may not be making the phone companies happy, but you will be making the users like me and the 25-30% poor and impoverished people in my community very, very happy. Thank you for your time.