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United States Senate

December 6, 2013

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

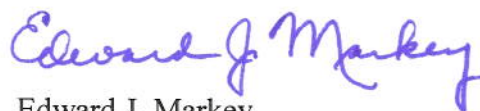
Last year, I joined a number of my colleagues in the House of Representatives urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to initiate a new round of data requests in the special access market for purposes of reducing rates and reforming anticompetitive contracts. As you know, special access services serve as the backbone for dedicated high-speed broadband and provide competitive wireline and wireless carriers with the capacity to serve small businesses, Fortune 500 corporations, universities, hospitals, public safety organizations, and government agencies. Following our correspondence with then-Chairman Genachowski, we were pleased that the Commission took action and is now engaged in a comprehensive effort to gather data and analyze the special access market.

However, I am concerned that AT&T's recent notice of its intention to eliminate special access service plans for terms longer than three years may result in price increases for consumers across Massachusetts and around the country. At a time when we should seek to spur competition, increase investment and innovation, enhance rural broadband deployment, and improve wireless coverage, such a move may undermine these vital goals.

Accordingly, I urge you to suspend and investigate AT&T's proposal so that the Commission does not prematurely take an action that impacts the special access market prior to concluding its important ongoing data collection process and analysis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to promoting economic growth and protecting competition and consumers.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator