



Multiple NoChokePoints Coalition Members File Petitions in Opposition to Verizon's Increase in Deregulated Special Access Prices

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Media Contact: Rebecca Mark, rmark@glenechogroup.com

Today, many members of the NoChokePoints Coalition filed petitions at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose Verizon's increase of its deregulated special access prices by 6 percent across the board. The following statement may be attributed to Maura Corbett, Executive Director of NoChokePoints:

"It doesn't take an PhD in Economics to figure out that if a company is able to continually raise prices in a market where the costs keep dropping, that's its probably using that market as its personal ATM machine.

"While the ITU reported just last year that global broadband prices have dropped by 50 percent, Verizon's latest tariff revision represents the incumbent's second unilateral increase in less than a year, for a total of a 12 percent increase in price in less than a year for the high speed "special access" broadband services upon which nearly every sector of the U.S. economy depends. So while the rest of the economy struggles to recover from one of the worst economic downturns in history, Verizon continues to overprice this critical broadband input simply because... nobody is stopping them.

"By statute, the FCC's job is to ensure that the rates for telecommunications services are just and reasonable. At this rate, Verizon's rate increases over the past year are nearly 5 times the Consumer Price Index over the same period. As we already know, Verizon's ability to unilaterally raise prices so substantially is because the special access market is a failure, and consumers cannot be protected from Verizon's control. This is precisely why Congress empowered the FCC to take action, and we urge the Commission to do so as soon as possible and complete the investigation it began seven years ago."

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For more information, click here: <http://nochokepoints.org/>