



Letter to the Editor: Competition is key to wireless services

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The U.S. wireless communications industry has continuously developed new and improved services that have revolutionized wireless communications.

Americans now enjoy reliable calling, seamless wireless Internet access, sophisticated handsets, and many useful and entertaining applications.

Competition has led to the widespread deployment and adoption of wireless communications services. The Federal Communications Commission reports that 99.6 percent of U.S. citizens have access to one or more mobile wireless services in the area where they live. Almost two-thirds (64.9 percent) of U.S. citizens live in areas that are served by five or more wireless service providers.

In addition, more than 85 percent of individuals in the United States now own a wireless telephone.

Competition has also produced low prices for U.S. consumers. Merrill Lynch reports that of the twenty-six major industrialized countries that it studies, the U.S. enjoys the lowest average price for wireless communications services. Furthermore, prices in the U.S. have been declining over time.

Competition has compelled carriers to deliver more voice minutes, greater text message allowances, and expanded data services with more bytes ... all at lower prices than in the past.

Consumers win when carriers are permitted to compete vigorously, free of unneeded government intervention. While it is often well-intentioned, government regulation can undermine the competitive process and produce unanticipated and undesirable consequences.

Competition in the wireless industry has served consumers well in the past. It deserves the opportunity to continue to serve them well in the future.

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