

The Crucial IRREGULATORS Lawsuit against the FCC Help them help us fight the FCC power grab!

The IRREGULATORS are going to court on May 20th, 2019 to appeal a recent FCC decision that tries to bury one of the largest accounting scandals in American history. It is critical that the FCC be required to admit to the issues and then deal with the ramifications.

The FCC has allowed the telecoms to engage in accounting shenanigans, and this impacts every current FCC proceeding, pricing at the state level for basic service and, ultimately all communications services in America. It determines who gets high speed broadband, has led in part to the Digital Divide, controls what price we pay, and has been a major driver for the lack of serious competition for local transmission facilities and services.

We found a 'structural flaw' in every FCC decision. Appealing this case provides a way to attack virtually every current and past FCC proceeding that has given the store away to the telecoms, from Net Neutrality to copper retirement and 5G.

This case could also open up many state decisions, especially those created with the help of ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, which has created model legislation – written by AT&T and Verizon, then handed to their politician members to push through. We note that the FCC's 5G regulations are based on an ALEC bill.

The FCC's cost accounting rules were "frozen" to mimic the year 2000. The rules now assign the majority of all expenses to "intrastate" and basically force state commissions to raise basic rates, even though a huge portion of these expenses are related to activity that has little or nothing to do with basic residential landline service.

The FCC has purposefully refused to audit or investigate how their rules impacted basic local rates, or drove federal decisions in other cases. They have never even admitted the harm to consumers and competition. The IRREGULATORS filed in this bizarre proceeding and exposed the whole charade. But the FCC once again refused to acknowledge the problem and extended the 'freeze' for 6 more years in December, 2018.

We have standing to take this appeal and the expertise in the legal, regulatory, and financial analysis areas. Our approach and data could make this case stick and if it does it will blow up the FCC's entire collection of decisions and current proceedings using the structural flaw.

At the same time, we believe that this proceeding, combined with what we have uncovered, could be used to help cities and states take back the infrastructure that they paid for, including solving the Digital Divide and a new path for bringing back competition.

<http://irregulators.org/who-we-are/> **The IRREGULATORS** is an independent, expert Telecom Team comprised of senior telecom experts, analysts, forensic auditors, and lawyers who are former senior staffers from the FCC, state advocate and Attorneys General Office experts and lawyers, as well as former telco consultants. Members of the group have been working together, in different configurations, [since 1999](#).

This amazing principled group needs funding to proceed with this lawsuit that would benefit all telecommunications ratepayers and particularly those of us who object to the overreach in the 5G campaign.

Help them help us fight the FCC power grab!

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