

Advocacy Submits Letter to FCC on Broadband Competition in Multi-Tenant Environments

On January 20, 2022, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a letter with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding its proceeding to improve competitive broadband access in multi-tenant environments (MTEs). In the letter, Advocacy shared the importance of a competitive broadband market to small businesses, and highlighted the comments of competitive broadband providers regarding possible barriers to competition in MTEs.

Specifically, Advocacy shared that:

- small and competitive broadband providers generally agree that revenue sharing agreements create incentives for MTE owners to exclude competitors;
- exclusive rooftop access agreements, and exclusive wiring agreements may also create barriers to competitive entry in MTEs;
- small broadband providers have expressed that exclusive marketing agreements create disadvantages for competitors; and,
- that the FCC should use its authority to prohibit agreements between MTE owners and broadband service providers that undermine the FCC's existing regulations barring exclusive access agreements and inhibit competition.

Advocacy also recommended that the FCC consider if there are ways to overcome obstacles to greater broadband deployment other than allowing broadband providers to create monopolies in individual MTEs. Specifically, Advocacy pointed to the broadband grant programs funded under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

A complete copy of Advocacy's [letter to the FCC](#) is available. For more information, please contact Jamie Saloom, Assistant Chief Counsel, at Jamie.Saloom@sba.gov, or at (202) 516-6290.

