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Potential" that exists today, and how it can further expand in the near future.

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March 10, 2017

Philadelphia Inquirer

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Fierce Cable

Charter network DOCSIS 3.1 ready, Rutledge says; RFP for new modems is out

Allentown Morning Call

Pennsylvania sues IBM over \$170 million contract dispute

Ars Technica

Trump's FCC chairman says he won't just do what Trump tells him to

Los Angeles Times

AT&T and Justice Department nearing settlement on Dodgers channel collusion suit

Associated Press

Media The Enemy? Trump Can't Get Enough

pennlive.com

Pa. Senate Democrats are slowly finding their cyber-legs again after ransomware attack

Philadelphia Daily News

How a Republican may steal a Democratic state house seat

There is minimal risk in loaning money to the telecom company partnering with Lancaster on its fiber-optic broadband network, a city official said. The assurance was given by the city's Director of Administrative Services, Patrick Hopkins, in a briefing to City Council, which is soon expected to sign off on the financial assistance for the rollout of the LanCity Connect broadband service.

While the network's capabilities will pay off for the city no matter what, the residential component is a big part of its potential, Hopkins and Mayor Rick Gray said. By taking steps to make it affordable, the city can dramatically expand economic and educational opportunity, they said. If it chooses not to, "we're missing an opportunity to take our city to the next level," Gray said.


The city has proposed loaning Reading-based MAW Communications, which is implementing the project, \$1.5 million for working capital. The money would come from the city's general fund and MAW would pay it back over 13 years at 7 percent interest. The loan terms will allow the city to take over the fiber network outright should MAW default, Hopkins said. It could then hire another firm to manage it.

Lancaster also would have liens on MAW's other assets and LanCity Connect revenues and potentially could recover other MAW revenues in the event the company folded while still owing the city money. Besides the loan, the administration proposes to subsidize residential hookups, which cost about \$1,000 each, with money from the water fund. It would initially make \$1.5 million available, with more possible later, and would recover the subsidy over time through a 13 percent surcharge on customers' bills.

Based on conservative extrapolations of rollouts elsewhere, MAW is projecting an initial customer base of 4,000, followed by 2 percent




annual growth, Hopkins said. By spring 2019, the city would be seeing earnings of about \$90,000 a month from the surcharge. It should be able to start recouping the subsidy money around the middle of that year, he said. The city would fully repay the general and water funds by 2027, he said. The city has invested about \$1.7 million so far in building the network's "backbone," and more buildout is planned. – lancastronline.com

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Deconstructing the regulatory state. This has been President Trump's administrative agenda from day one. While it does sound like an incredibly liberal agenda, the 45th President of the United States seems to have found a perfectly conservative way of doing it: prioritizing corporate incumbency over consumers interests. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Ajit Pai, the President's pick for Chairman of

the Federal Communications Commission, is leading something in a similar vein to reestablish and restructure the telecoms market in a way that puts business interests before consumer satisfaction.

When Donald J. Trump was elected President of the United States, it was supposed to send a message to the so-called establishment. The people of this country no longer desire a government that puts quality before quantity. No longer are they interested in the kind of administration that prioritizes the freedom of the people before the quantitative growth of the nation as a whole. No longer are they content of moderation and diplomacy, what they really want is a bang for their buck. At least, that's what they thought. And that's the specific message that the President meant to send towards his particular interest groups.

In a lot of ways, the last Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission was a person of moderation and intellect. Despite being a man who had spent his entire career lobbying for the cable industry, he realized the importance of putting specific consumer interests ahead of financial prosperity. He didn't just care about the money, he cared about the quality of service delivered in the telecom industry.

In what is known as the most radical decision during his entire tenure, Mr. Wheeler proposed **the so-called net neutrality regulations** that enforced Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 upon the cable

broadband industry, imposing severe laws to prevent ISPs from throttling, blocking or prioritizing web traffic in exchange for compensation. To this, the population of the country replied with a resounding yes.

But times change. And **there is not much love lost** between Ajit Pai and Title II of the Communications Act. From the very first day he has opposed this legislation, calling it out as outdated and regulatory, something that hinders business while succumbing to fear and paranoia.

According to Pai, the idea of broadband companies taking over the open internet is an unreal scenario dreamt up by an administrative state. It is his firm belief, conveniently inspired by lobbyists from the cable industry, that removing these restrictions will do nothing but open up further options for economic prosperity within the telecom market.

Truth be told, the new direction does open up several new opportunities for cable industry incumbents like AT&T and Verizon, who are under the impression that they might finally have a fighting chance against cheaper and easier alternatives like Netflix, Hulu and YouTube TV. In an **article published on the Investor's Business Daily**, author Reinhardt Krause talks about the possibility of broadband service providers like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast coming up with clever taxation plans to help undermine the popularity of Netflix-like **video streaming services** that market themselves chiefly on affordability.

Cable broadband providers may have more than just one nasty trick up their sleeves, says Reinhardt, who is convinced that speed caps and selective blocking of websites are yet another possible direction we are heading towards.

Of course, it is probably safe to assume that video streaming services like Hulu and YouTube TV are already knee-deep in a plan of retaliation, which may come out in the form of a tax chargeable to users based on the specific cable company they're using. While that may sound like a solid plan at first glance, it is probably more likely to harass end users than the so-called incumbents who are hell-bent on taking away the open internet that we have so easily taken for granted.

With Google announcing the foundation of YouTube TV, an ad-powered \$35 Live TV service featuring networks such as CBS, NBC and Fox, and **Hulu launching its own Live TV program** in Spring, one thing's for certain. The battle for control over the television industry is on, and the end consumer is going to take the heat more than anyone else. If you want to speak up for your preferences, now is the time. – **Forbes**

Cable channel HBO said on Thursday it is planning a dramatized TV miniseries about the extraordinary 2016 U.S. presidential, one of the first of several such projects being discussed in Hollywood. No casting, title or broadcast date was announced for the HBO project, which comes from the same team that produced the award-winning "Game Change" film about the 2008 election that starred Julianne Moore as then Republican vice-presidential contender Sarah Palin.

The 2016 election campaign that saw Republican Donald Trump triumph over Democrat Hillary Clinton last November was one of the most dramatic in living memory. It is also the subject of a TV miniseries treatment being developed by "Zero Dark Thirty" movie screenwriter Mark Boal, the Hollywood Reporter said in February.

A third miniseries project, looking at the behind-the-scenes drama of Trump's campaign, is also making the rounds in Hollywood, entertainment website Deadline reported last month. The announcement by HBO, a unit of Time Warner, appeared to mark the first of the various ideas to win a commitment from a major broadcaster.

HBO said its series would be based on an upcoming book by political journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann about the campaign. Jay Roach, who directed Emmy-winner "Game Change" will return to direct, and Tom Hanks is one of the executive producers. Len Amato, president of HBO Films, said in a statement that the project "promises to vividly capture the most unique and impactful event in modern American politics." – **Bloomberg**



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