

tl;dr - Build Broadband Better: Focus on Competition, Not Competitors

June 2, 2021

[Kristian Stout](#) and [Ben Sperry](#)

# ICLE tl;dr

**Background...** [Claims](#) that the U.S. broadband market is insufficiently competitive have prompted public policy [proposals](#) to stimulate market entry, including through subsidies to government-run broadband service. The White House has incorporated similar proposals into its [American Jobs Plan](#), while Congress also is [considering increased subsidies](#) for broadband as part of its infrastructure package.

**But...** Competition in the broadband market is stronger than critics claim. Economists have long recognized that a market's level of competition is not solely determined by the number of competitors. Seeking to increase the number of firms beyond what that market can profitably bear will lower societal welfare. A better way to encourage broadband buildout would be to remove regulatory barriers to entry.

[Read the full explainer here.](#)

[View Article](#)