



ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL
FILE

Keith H. Fagan
Assistant General Counsel

World
Systems Division

Communications
Satellite Corporation
950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20024
Telephone 202-863-6011
Telex 197800
Fax 202-488-3814/3819

April 9, 1992

RECEIVED

APR 10 1992

Ms. Donna R. Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: Communications Satellite Corporation Petition for
Rulemaking (RM-7913)

Dear Ms. Searcy:

On January 30, 1992, Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the Commission seeking incentive-based regulation for its multi-year fixed-price carrier-to-carrier contract-based switched-voice services. The Commission placed that petition on public notice as RM-7913 and requested public comment by April 6, 1992.

Attached hereto are a number of letters from United States Senators and Members of Congress urging prompt consideration of COMSAT's request. COMSAT hereby requests that these letters be made part of the public record in RM-7913.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION
COMSAT World Systems

Keith H. Fagan
Its Attorney

No. of Copies rec'd 015
List A B C D E

RALPH M. HALL
DALLAS, TEXAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMSAT 1

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SPACE, CHAIRMAN
ENVIRONMENT
ENERGY
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE

April 7, 1992

RECEIVED

APR 10 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Sikes:

I am writing to express my support for initiating a rulemaking on incentive-based regulation for switched-voice INTELSAT services, a position recently proposed in a petition filed by COMSAT. Since COMSAT remains the only fully rate regulated U.S. common carrier, a move allowing pricing flexibility would seem to be both prudent and consistent with current treatment of other international carriers. The regulatory relief sought in the petition holds the potential to allow COMSAT to operate on even footing with its competitors and bring further benefits to its many users.

Since the Commission's most recent consideration of COMSAT's regulatory status seven years ago, much has changed. For instance, the emergence of fiber optic undersea cables, as well as separate satellite systems, has greatly increased competition in the international communications marketplace.

The Commission has recently modified its regulatory treatment of other U.S. carriers by switching from a rate-based regulatory regime to an incentive-based system. In light of these developments, I share COMSAT's goal that their voice services be treated similarly, particularly since COMSAT exercises less market power than the very carriers to whom the FCC has extended this new regulatory approach.

Please reply to:

2236 RAYBURN HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4304
(202) 225-6673

104 NORTH SAN JACINTO
ROCKWALL, TX 75087-2508
(214) 771-9118

119 FEDERAL BUILDING
SHERMAN, TX 75090-5917
(903) 892-1112

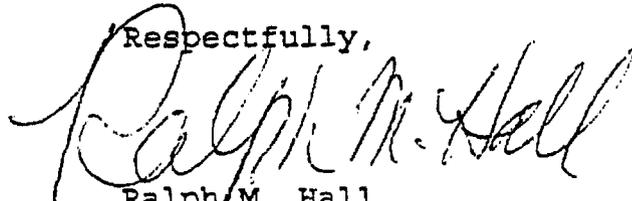
211 FEDERAL BUILDING
TYLER, TX 75702-7
(903) 597-3729

Page Two -- The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes

COMSAT believes an incentive-based system will provide many benefits to their customers and the world at-large. I commend COMSAT's petition for a rulemaking and strongly urge the Commission to move forward with it. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in these efforts.

With best personal regards, I am

Respectfully,



Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

RMH:mee

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515-4308

April 7, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

I am writing to express my support for initiating a rulemaking on incentive-based regulation for switched-voice INTELSAT services, a position recently proposed in a petition filed by COMSAT. The petition requests that COMSAT be allowed more price flexibility with its rates. As you know, COMSAT remains the only U.S. common carrier that is fully rate regulated. Therefore, granting COMSAT this regulatory relief would not only be consistent with current treatment of other international carriers, but also would bring additional benefits to its numerous users.

The last time the commission reviewed COMSAT's regulatory framework was seven years ago. Since that time, considerable change has occurred in international communications, the primary change being the emergence of new competition through both fiber optic undersea cables and separate satellite systems. Due to this changing international marketplace and the fact that the Commission has recently shifted from its rate-based regulatory treatment for other U.S. carriers to an incentive based system, I share COMSAT's objective that their voice services be regulated as any other carrier would be. Also, given President Bush's recent deregulatory initiative, this incentive-based regime is clearly consistent with his goals.

COMSAT believes an incentive-based system will provide many benefits to their customers and, more specifically, Third World countries that heavily depend on satellite communications. Satellites hold the most potential for Third World countries to communicate with the developed world, because other media, such as fiber optics, are prohibitively expensive and do not service less populated areas as well as satellites. With the new incentive-based system COMSAT is proposing in place, lower rates will be available worldwide. The ability to allow Third World countries to easily communicate with the developed world clearly supports the vision of both COMSAT and our long range foreign policy goals.

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes -- Page 2

I applaud COMSAT's petition for a rulemaking and strongly encourage the commission to move forward with it. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this proposal.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JACK FIELDS
Member of Congress

JF:gg

CONRAD BURNS
MONTANA

... BURNS IV 30030139

FU02/004

COMMITTEE
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

April 7, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: RM-7913

Dear Chairman Sikes:

On January 30, COMSAT Corporation filed a petition for rulemaking at the agency, seeking adoption of incentive-based regulation for all switched voice service under long-term contract with its carrier customers.

The COMSAT petition is a logical next step for the Commission to follow in light of its move toward more pro-competitive, market-based regulation that allows our U.S. industry to compete and prosper in an environment of less regulation.

While the FCC has focused on a revised regulatory regime for the Local Exchange Carriers (LEC's) and AT&T, the Commission has not looked at COMSAT's regulatory status in almost seven years. Much has changed since the Commission last reviewed COMSAT's regulatory status. The strong emergence of fiber optic cable, the lifting of restrictions on separate satellite systems competing in the international marketplace and the lack of loading guidelines requiring a portion of traffic be placed on satellites makes for a highly competitive environment. In my view, a review of COMSAT's regulatory regime is appropriate and necessary.

Because of these concerns, I would urge the FCC to promptly adopt COMSAT's petition seeking an incentive-based regulatory approach.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns
United States Senator

RICHARD H. STALLINGS
2d DISTRICT, IDAHO

1122 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1202
(202) 225-6631



COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1202

March 27, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Based on my understanding that the public record is open for comments, I am writing in support of the filing made by COMSAT Corporation's World Systems Division on January 31, 1992. If my information is correct, the filing requested a move towards a more incentive-based regulatory scheme for COMSAT's international switched voice services.

As a member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, I am keenly aware of the need for American companies to stay as competitive as possible in important international markets. Telecommunications is certainly one area where we want to hold onto our pre-eminent global position. There seems little question to me that the requested adjustment would allow COMSAT to compete more effectively in the international market by enhancing its capability to respond to its customers' demands quickly.

To the extent it is appropriate within the regulatory mechanism that has been activated, I would like to express my hope that the FCC will seriously consider this point, and favorable action, on the COMSAT request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard H. Stallings". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard H. Stallings
Member of Congress

RHS/g

TOM McMILLEN
4TH DISTRICT MARYLAND

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE
ENERGY AND POWER
COMMERCIAL, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMPETITIVENESS
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
SPACE SCIENCE
ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 1, 1992

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410-788-3080/301-281-3008
6188 OXON HILL ROAD
SUITE 370
OXON HILL, MD 20746
301-897-0212

The Honorable Alfred Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in support of the petition filed by COMSAT World Systems Division seeking regulatory relief for the long term contracts it currently has in force for international switched voice services. COMSAT's petition requests reliance on incentive based regulation rather than rate based regulation for these services, as well as the right to lower its rates on 14 days notice.

Since the Commission last looked at these regulations, the international communications marketplace has undergone vast changes. Fiber optic cable has been introduced and the United States has adopted new policies to allow private satellite systems to enter this now highly competitive field. It is important that COMSAT be able to react to marketplace conditions if it is to compete effectively, and not to be encumbered by unnecessary regulation.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and hope you would include this correspondence in the appropriate docket.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Tom McMillen
Member of Congress

TM/sh

RICHARD BRYAN
NEVADACOMMITTEE:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC
ETHICS**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2804

March 27, 1992

Hon. Al Sikes
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

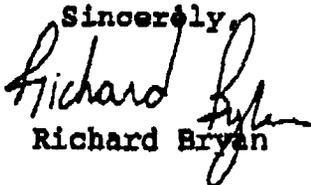
Dear Mr. Chairman:

On January 30, 1992 COMSAT Corporation filed a petition with the FCC asking for incremental regulatory relief for its major switched voice services for customers with long term contracts. This is part of their efforts to become more flexible in responding to changing market conditions and customer demands.

By virtue of an overwhelming percentage of international telecommunications traffic that begins or terminates in the United States, COMSAT has, on behalf of our nation, maintained a dominant role in the field of international communications for decades. Because of their commitment to satellite technology, there has also been a very positive and related impact on the American aerospace industry. The ability of COMSAT and other U.S. companies to maintain this leadership position against increasing international competitive forces is a clear challenge not only to these companies but also to those of us in Government who oversee this industry.

I believe the FCC's decision to replace rate of return regulation with price caps on long-distance companies was correct. It not only did away with an antiquated form of regulation but also increased competition. COMSAT's petition furthers this policy direction. I hope that the FCC will move expeditiously in reviewing this request and will look to a more streamlined and efficient regulatory system.

Sincerely,



Richard Bryan

RHB/av

CLAIRE BORNE PELL
RHODE ISLAND

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3901

April 2, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

It has come to my attention that COMSAT has filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeking the adoption of incentive-based regulation for switched voice services rather than the current system of rate-based regulation.

It is also my understanding that the purpose of COMSAT's request is to facilitate the lowering of rates it charges to consumers.

I must say that I believe COMSAT's proposal has very real merit and I urge that the FCC review it on an expedited basis.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Borne Pell". The signature is written over the typed name and extends upwards and to the right.

Claire Borne Pell

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS

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HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003
(202) 224-4884
TTY: (202) 224-5223

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

March 27, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

I am writing you on behalf of COMSAT Corporation. COMSAT is a major international communications company and is a leader in Maryland's high technology business sector. COMSAT currently has a petition before the FCC regarding regulatory reform for its long term contracts for switched voice services.

I want to make sure that their petition is given a complete, fair and quick review. COMSAT tells me that this deregulatory move is essential for it to maintain the ability to meet current and future customer requirements in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

As the FCC reviews its regulations on high-technology communications, I hope you will give full consideration to COMSAT's petition.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:CSG

(copy)

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BALTIMORE, MD 21202-3041
(410) 962-4810

3 CHURCH CIRCLE
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HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740-4804
(301) 797-3826

CITY CENTER ON THE PLAZA
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SALISBURY, MD 21801
(410) 845-7711

ALBERT GORE, JR.
TENNESSEE

808 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: 202-224-4844

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

March 20, 1992

Hon. Albert C. Sikes
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

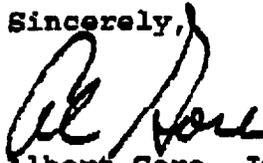
Dear Chairman Sikes:

As you know, I have been closely following developments in international communications policy for many years. In particular, the separate satellites issue has been an important part of the ongoing debate about the future of this technology and the global benefits it continues to offer all countries.

I understand that earlier this month the FCC adopted its final order on implementing the administration's policy to remove all remaining restrictions on separate systems. COMSAT has a filing (RM 7913) before the Commission which requests certain changes in its regulatory status to allow it more flexibility in this rapidly changing marketplace.

I hope you will give this filing careful review. I believe we agree on the goal of an international telecommunications arena to provide important competitive benefits for customers and the economies of the nations affected by the changes in this marketplace. A marketplace which provides a fair playing field for all sectors -- satellite and undersea cable, etc. -- will be the most positive outcome of your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Albert Gore, Jr.

John Breaux
Louisiana

Committee
Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
Finance
Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1803

March 31, 1992

Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Suite 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

As you know COMSAT of America is a world leader in providing satellite-delivered international telecommunications services. Since the FCC last considered COMSAT's regulatory status seven years ago, intense competition from fiber optic international telecommunications and other satellite services have emerged. Market changes and an exemplary record of service would seem to warrant serious FCC consideration of COMSAT's request for an incentive-based regulatory regime.

COMSAT petitioned the FCC on January 30, 1992 seeking incremental regulatory relief for its major switched voice services for customers with long term contracts. Regulatory flexibility would allow COMSAT to respond to changing market conditions and customer demands.

By virtue of an overwhelming percentage of international telecommunications traffic that begins or terminates in the United States, for decades COMSAT has, on behalf of our Nation, maintained a dominant role in international communications. I am also pleased to note a related and very positive impact on America's aerospace industry, which is a by-product of COMSAT's commitment to satellite technology development.

The ability of COMSAT and other U.S. companies to maintain a leadership position against increasing international competitive forces is a clear challenge not only to these companies but also to those of us in government who oversee the international telecommunications industry.

I hope that the FCC will move expeditiously in reviewing this request, and will grant whatever changes are necessary and warranted to maintain COMSAT's competitiveness against non-U.S. competitive forces.

Sincerely,


JOHN BREAUX
United States Senator

JB:thm

WASHINGTON OFFICE
(202) 224-4823

CENTRAL LOUISIANA OFFICE
524 MURRAY STREET
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 472-7270

SOUTH LOUISIANA OFFICE
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LAFAYETTE, LA 70501
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NORTH LOUISIANA OFFICE
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MONROE, LA 71201
(318) 325-3320

NEW ORLEANS AREA OFFICE
HALL 8600 FEDERAL BUILDING
801 MAGAZINE STREET, SUITE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70113
(504) 589-2531

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

April 1, 1992

Dear Ms. Solheim,

This letter pertains to COMSAT Corporation's Petition for Rulemaking with the FCC seeking adoption of incentive-based regulation for its international switched voice services. As you know, COMSAT has stated that a revised regulatory framework would enable the company to respond more effectively to competitive market forces.

Could you please advise me, as you have on other issues, as to what the considerations are, both pro and con, in terms of COMSAT's petition. I ask that you address any verbal or written comments to Lynley Ogilvie of my staff.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

Ms. Linda Solheim
Director
Attn: David H. Krech
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 808
Washington, D.C. 20554

BOB CARR
9TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE,
AND THE JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER
WHIP-AT-LARGE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2206

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378 NORTH TELEGRAPH ROAD
PONTIAC, MI 48341
(313) 332-8910

April 3, 1992

Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, I have been interested in the issue of international communications, specifically the policies associated with separate satellite systems, for many years. I understand that earlier this month you implemented the Administration's new policy expanding the permissible array of services that may be provided by separate systems. This will have immediate and long-term effects in terms of promoting competition in international communications.

A question arises over the broader issue of what we can do to insure that the traditional satellite carriers will also have the support they need as they prepare to meet the advent of ever-increasing competition from separate systems as well as fiber optic cable. Indeed, COMSAT and INTELSAT may need to make changes in the way they operate in order to keep their competitive edge.

I am aware that COMSAT has a petition before the FCC seeking adoption of incentive-based regulation for long-term contracts with its carrier customers. I urge your favorable consideration so that all competitors will be able to compete more effectively in the marketplace. I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



BOB CARR
Member of Congress

BC/djb

DENNIS E. ECKART
11th DISTRICT, OHIO

MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ANTITRUST, IMPACT OF
DEREGULATION, AND ECOLOGY
DEPUTY WHIP



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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9970 HEISLEY RD. #220
MENTOR, OHIO 44060-1872
(216) 639-1700

TOLL FREE:
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(OHIO)

April 3, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

I am writing to bring to your attention a petition for rulemaking number 7913 filed with the Commission on January 31, 1992. The petition was filed by COMSAT World Systems Division requesting modification in the regulation of multi-year fixed price carrier to carrier contract based switched voice service.

As you know, the petition proposes a change in the form of regulation of satellite carriage of switched voice services under long term contract from rate regulation to a flexible form of regulation more in line with current Commission policies. A greater margin of flexibility in pricing for satellite common carriers would be appropriate given the significant and growing level of competition such satellite common carriers face from land line transmission and other competition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact David Zesiger of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DENNIS E. ECKART
Member of Congress

JIM BACCHUS
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

MEMBER:
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SCIENCE, SPACE AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 3, 1992

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8545 CORPORATE CENTRE
BOULEVARD
SUITE 310
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32822
(407) 855-1776

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

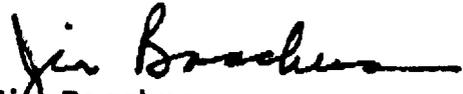
On January 30, COMSAT Corporation filed a petition for rulemaking (RM-7913) at the Federal Communications Commission, seeking adoption of incentive-based regulation for all switched voice service under long-term contract with its carrier customers.

It has been almost seven years since the FCC has considered COMSAT's regulatory status. Since that time, the strong emergence of fiber optic cable combined with the potential lifting of restrictions for separate satellite systems to compete in the international communications marketplace makes a review of COMSAT's regulatory status timely.

The question of COMSAT's ability to compete is important. COMSAT has been on the forefront of international satellite communications since its creation in 1964. Its commitment to promoting the procurement of U.S. launch services through INTELSAT has contributed positively to the U.S. balance of trade. This is particularly important to me in that these satellites are often launched from Cape Canaveral in my district. Furthermore, COMSAT's innovations in satellite communications technology has been very beneficial to U.S. industry.

Implementation of an incentive-based regulatory regime will allow COMSAT to respond to the needs of the marketplace by giving them pricing flexibility to lower rates to its carrier customers as needed in the face of competitive pressures. In light of these concerns, I urge you to expeditiously review this petition, giving it your most careful consideration.

Sincerely,


Jim Bacchus
Member of Congress

JB: vvw

SENT BY: CONNIE MORELLA

: 4- 1-92 3:33PM ;

304→

1 202 863 6739: # 1

CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

5TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

MEMBER

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

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April 1, 1992

Mr. Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications
Commission
1919 M Street, Nw Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Sikes: *Mr. Chairman,*

On January 30, 1992 COMSAT Corporation filed a petition for rule making with the FCC seeking adoption of incentive-based regulation of COMSAT World System's multi-year switched-voice services for carriers. This docket will provide the Commission with its first opportunity in quite a few years to review COMSAT's regulatory status.

As I understand it, what COMSAT is seeking is an opportunity to respond more effectively to the reality of a rapidly changing and highly competitive market. COMSAT believes that this is an opportunity for the Commission to apply its deregulatory bias in a positive way. NOT only does COMSAT believe it will be able to compete more effectively, but it will also serve as an incentive for maintaining downward pressure on their rates, to the benefit of their customers.

I hope you will give this petition your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Connie
Constance A. Morella
Member of Congress

CAM:dn/jr