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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

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Honorable Joe L. Barton
House of Representatives
1225 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4306

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Congressman Barton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition for rulemaking filed by Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT). As you observe, COMSAT seeks a change in the Commission's Rules that would "cap" its current rates for multi-year carrier switched-voice services.

In a March 5, 1992 Public Notice, the Commission requested comment on the COMSAT petition. We have received comments from Sprint Communications Company L.P.; IDB Communications Group, Inc.; MCI Telecommunications Corporation; Pan American Satellite; and American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The Commission is reviewing the comments and plans to address this matter expeditiously. I believe that the concerns expressed in your letter will assist us in reaching a decision on the request for rulemaking. We all seek a course of action that will result in a reasonable and fair solution for COMSAT which best serves the public interest.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

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LETTER REPORT

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9201166	04/14/92	04/10/92	04/27/92	04/23/92

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Joe Barton	ACS

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
personal view	COMSAT international rule making

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
CCB	TARF		

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
04/14/92	4/14/92		

REMARKS:

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4306

April 10, 1992

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

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
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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 first step for the Commission to follow in light of its move toward a more 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 examined 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 on 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. This makes a review of COMSAT's regulatory regime both appropriate and necessary.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Joe Barton
Member of Congress

JB:ss

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