



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

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Honorable Bud Cramer
House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Cramer:

Thank you for your comments regarding the FCC's proposal concerning AT&T's proprietary card issuer identifier (CIID) calling card. The introduction of these calling cards by AT&T raises difficult public policy issues.

AT&T asserts that because it is the only long-distance company that can accept AT&T's CIID card, this enables AT&T customers to ensure that their telephone calls are carried only by that company, as opposed to another operator service provider -- possibly charging higher rates -- that the customer may not wish to use. In addition, it observes that most of AT&T's operator service competitors have issued their own proprietary calling cards.

On the other hand, some of AT&T's competitors claim that their inability to accept calls made with these cards seriously handicaps them in the operator services marketplace.

Some of these long-distance companies have urged the Commission to take certain steps to eliminate the alleged competitive inequity arising from AT&T's issuance of a proprietary calling card. On April 9, 1992, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, with an expedited pleading cycle, to address this issue. In adopting an expedited pleading cycle, the Commission recognized the urgency of prompt attention to this matter, and we intend to act on these proposals as quickly as possible.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Commission's news release on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure

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5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

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

June 12, 1992

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The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
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927360

Dear Chairman Sikes:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
6001

I am concerned about your proposed rule in FCC docket 92-77 known as the "0 + public domain" proposal.

This rule, if adopted, could undermine AT&T's proprietary long distance credit cards (CIID cards), which are used by over 20 million people. As I understand the proposal, other companies could handle and bill for calls made with the CIID card. This could lead to abuses by unscrupulous carriers. AT&T and its customers favor these proprietary cards because they keep other carriers from billing at exorbitant rates. This type of abuse is not beneficial to consumers.

Any return to anti-consumer practices should not be favored. I would request that this "0 + public domain" be carefully evaluated for its effect on consumers and rejected if it indeed is not beneficial to the consuming public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bud Cramer
Member of Congress

BC:jch