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IDAHO CONSUMER AFFAIRS, INC. MAIL ROOM

AFFILIATE OF CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA

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RM-8491

July 7, 1994

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Petition: Rulemaking for Relief in
Sect.214 Video Dialtone Application
Process (DA 94-621)

Dear Mr. Caton:

Idaho Consumer Affairs, Inc. supports Consumer Federation of America and many other like national groups in their petitions for implementation of video dialtone facilities. Please do hear our requests singly and in groups when we beg you to set up safeguards to prevent discrimination in the poor and minority areas in providing telecommunication services.

We have reasons to believe that universal service and equal rights for all must include from the start of this technological rule-making all necessary precautions and protection for full and complete delivery of video dialtone facilities without fail. No one should be overlooked for any reason particularly those who are so often discriminated against due to diverse race, economics, locations, population or potential technical difficulties such as engineering.

A great future lies ahead in this science probably far different from our present knowledge. Failure to encompass all areas for lack of prescient knowledge is our argument for imaginative and original action given your opportunities today.

We urge you to develop strong improved policies in support of the principle of universal service to prevent discrimination in each stage of development and deployment. An intense initial educational plan should be placed in effect in all population areas to impart new terminology dealing with anticipated services and so clearly enunciated that all citizens can understand without doubts. We urge that the ratepayers and taxpayers all be given the opportunity to fully comprehend all social impacts of network trends and infrastructure decision making.

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List ABCDE

Page Two - Idaho Consumer Affairs, Inc. vs. FCC Petition (DA 94-621)
7/7/94

Consumers react wisely if given full facts if provided with options outlining video, audio and data home transmissions in all social fields of health, education, information and service. Please do revise the current process to include in public policy more comprehensive education.

Sincerely,


Wendell M. Phillips
Telecommunications chair

cc: Reed Hundt, Chairman
Peggy Reitzel

Bradley Stillman, Legislative Counsel
Consumer Federation of America