

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of the Cable)
Television Consumer Protection)
and Competition Act of 1992:)
)
Cable Home Wiring)

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MM Docket No. 92-260

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

Apr 17 '96

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REPLY COMMENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

The United States Telephone Association (USTA) respectfully submits its reply comments in the above referenced proceeding. USTA is the principal trade association of the exchange carrier industry. Its members provide over 98 percent of the exchange carrier-provided access lines in the United States.

A primary concern of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA), Time Warner Cable, the Joint Commenters¹ and the Cable Telecommunications Association (CATA) centers around the issue of loop-thru architectures and how they impact the state of cable competition and the power of landlords and building owners. The Joint Commenters state "The Commission's proposal to allow a building to terminate franchised cable service if all subscribers

¹ The Joint Commenters are Marcus Cable Co., American Cable Entertainment, Greater Media Inc., Cable Television Assn. Of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, Cable Television Assn. Of Georgia, Minnesota Cable Communications Assn., New Jersey Cable Telecommunications Assn., Ohio Cable Telecommunications Assn., Oregon Cable Television Assn., South Carolina Cable Television Assn., Tennessee Cable Television Assn., and Texas Cable TV Assn.

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agree is fraught with mischief.”² Of the Commission’s request for comment on whether a building owner should be permitted to purchase loop-through wiring, CATA says “Surely, this is a recipe for mischief.” All agree that should this be allowed to occur, competition will suffer and landlords and building owners will “...act as a bottleneck restricting competitive service to residents.”³

Contrary to these comments, in the current situation, the entrenched franchised entity is the bottleneck. The franchised entity has absolutely no desire to lessen his stronghold, whereas a landlord or building owner would be more likely to meet the needs of his/her residents so that they remain satisfied, thereby lessening the risk of complaint handling and tenant turnover.

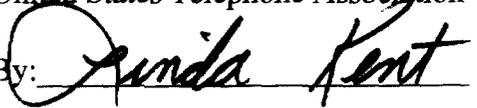
² Comments of Joint Commenters, p. 2.

³ *Ib.*

USTA, therefore, believes that these concerns argue for the recommendation it made in its comments in this docket. To reiterate, USTA recommends that a building owner be permitted the opportunity to purchase the wiring and common equipment in loop-through installations only if individual tenants are also permitted to install or have installed any additional wiring and exercise their independent rights to terminate service and interconnect with another provider.

Respectfully submitted,

United States Telephone Association

By: 

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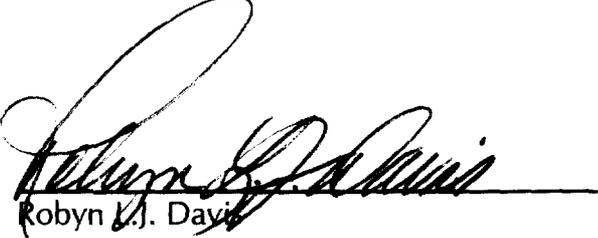
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robyn L.J. Davis, do certify that on April 17, 1996 reply comments of the United States Telephone Association were either hand-delivered, or deposited in the U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid to the persons on the attached service list.


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