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CARRIE P. MEEK
17TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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POSTAL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0917

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August 30, 1996

96-98

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to urge you to reconsider your recently issued decision and rules regarding the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This is a matter of great concern to Florida consumers.

This spring the U.S. Congress passed the historic Telecommunications Act of 1996 in order to create new opportunities for telecommunications innovation and service. These objectives would be achieved by creating a competitive telecommunications environment; by lessening outdated and cumbersome regulatory process; and by giving the states a significant role in shaping the transition to a truly competitive marketplace.

The Act afforded state commissions a potential role in arbitrating agreements between incumbent local exchange companies and new entrants. Congress set forth the standards to be used in this arbitration process, which were not to be invoked unless the parties failed to negotiate and reach agreements. Unfortunately, it seems that the Federal Communications Commission has turned a deaf ear to the work of Congress, undermined the negotiation process, usurped much of the states' role, and put in place a massive and unwieldy set of federal regulatory rules.

Rather than innovation, deregulation, and states' involvement, the new rules may actually stifle innovation and limit consumer benefit. Congress did not intend that the FCC alone shape the new marketplace, but that state regulatory agencies should also have a role in this process.

The FCC's order would replace a competitive local exchange marketplace with a bureaucratically micro-managed system that may well breed endless litigation. Rather than letting the competitors fight it out in the marketplace, the competitors will first, and ultimately, have to fight it out in the hearing rooms and courtrooms at great expense to themselves, their consumers, and the American public.

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Again, I urge you to reconsider your recently issued decision and rules. Congress never intended that bureaucratic regulation and systemic inefficiency replace competition and its potential for great benefits for the consumer.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carrie P. Meek

CARRIE P. MEEK
Member of Congress

CPM/mcc

CC Docket No. 96-98

Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek

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Washington, D.C. 20515
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Date: AUG 30 1996

To: CHAIRMAN HUNDT

Number Faxed to: 418 2801

From:

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