

Todd F. Silbergeld
Director-
Federal Regulatory

SBC Communications Inc.
1401 I Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone 202 326-8888
Fax 202 408-4806



September 23, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 518
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

SEP 23 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Implementation of the Local Competition
Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of
1996, CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Mr. Caton:

Both the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act) and the Commission's recent Order in CC Docket No. 96-98 require Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to negotiate private interconnection agreements with local service providers (LSPs).¹ Such agreements typically include the provisioning of operator services to carriers that provide both local and interexchange services. Indeed, most of the interconnection agreements SWBT has reached with LSPs to date include terms for the provision of operator services.

Currently, SWBT provides operator services to interexchange carriers (IXCs) pursuant to federal tariff. It is inconsistent and illogical, however, to provide operator services to a single carrier by both privately negotiated agreement and by tariff. Therefore, SWBT intends to provide all operator services henceforth pursuant to the privately negotiated agreements contemplated by the 1996 Act.

Additional reasons why operator services should be provided pursuant to contracts are:

1. Carriers can no longer be categorized simply as IXCs, LSPs, or CMRS providers; most are, or in the near future, will be hybrids.

1 See 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(1) (1996).

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

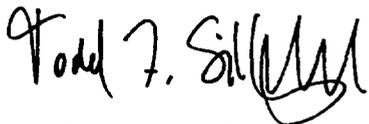
0 + 3

Mr. William F. Caton
Page - 2 -
September 23, 1996

2. SWBT's approach will provide consistent treatment to all customers -- all carriers will be able to obtain services under a single agreement.
3. The operator services market is intensely competitive. Virtually every other provider offers operator services pursuant to privately negotiated agreements.
4. Basic operator services functions are essentially the same for all customers. There is no rational basis for requiring the identical services to be offered to some customers pursuant to tariff and others pursuant to a negotiated agreement.
5. The 1996 Act and the Order in CC Docket No. 96-98 require SWBT to offer operator services on a fully unbundled basis. This is inconsistent with the provision of those services pursuant to tariffs, which offer uniform services at a single uniform price and do not give customers the freedom to pick and choose, as is envisioned by the 1996 Act and the Order in CC Docket No. 96-98.

Representatives of SWBT respectfully request a meeting in the very near future with Commission staff to discuss these and any other related issues. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Todd F. Silbergeld

cc: Allen A. Barna, Esq.
Melissa E. Newman, Esq.