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To: Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Date: February 6, 1997

Subject: Access Charge Reform CC Docket No. 96-262
Usage of the Public Switched CC Docket No. 96-263

Sir/Madam,

It appears that there is a proposal to charge the Internet Service providers a per Hour/Minute fee for data access through the telephone lines.

This seems to be not a fair proposal, because it will pose a burden on the consumer eventually. Also, this will eventually open the doors to the phone companies to charge a per Hour/Minute charge for local phone calls for voice transmissions as well. At present, the consumer has the ability of paying a fixed fee for unlimited usage of the telephone, giving him/her what is considered, in present Day standards of living, a vital means of communicating with the outside world. With the majority of consumers living on fixed incomes, this proposal lacks the rationality that would make it justifiable.

Please consider this letter as a genuine protest against such a proposal, which would make it more expensive for internet users to communicate with others, even in their own localities.

Sincerely Yours,


(RAMGOPAL S. KURPAD)