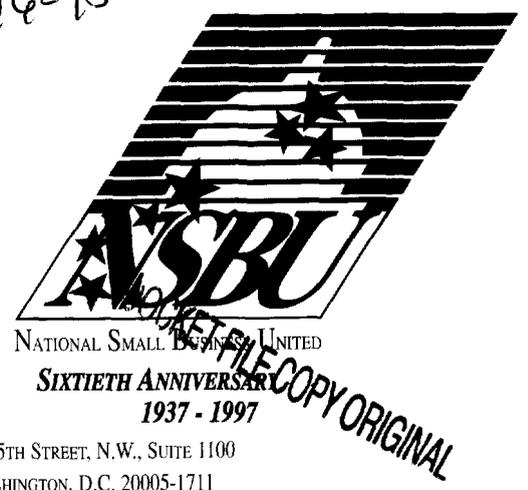


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April 30, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

1156 15TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-1711
202-293-8830
FAX: 202-872-8543

Via Fax: (202) 418-2801

Dear Chairman Hundt:

National Small Business United (NSBU), the nation's oldest small business advocacy organization, is concerned about the proposed changes to the universal services policies currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NSBU, with 65,000 members nationwide, is troubled that these changes may punish certain segments of the small business community.

With more and more small businesses using the Internet and electronic mail, faxing equipment and other technologies to help them compete with big business and make a profit, telecommunications is a significant expense item and a critical component of a successful business.

While NSBU is in favor of open and fair competition in the telephone and communications arena, the downsides or burdens of this undertaking cannot fall disproportionately upon small business.

It is incumbent upon the FCC to ensure that the impacts of the telecommunication law implementation process does not bring additional burdens to an already overregulated sector of the business community. This proposal may well penalize hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of small businesses by insuring that they will face higher telephone rates.

NSBU encourages you to reject any proposal that would unfairly impact small business or would lead to higher telecommunication service rates. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 202/293-8830. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David D'Onofrio
Director of Government & Public Affairs

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- cc: Rep. Tom Bliley, Rep. John Dingell, House Commerce Committee
- Rep. James Talent, Rep. John LaFalce, House Small Business Committee
- Sen. John McCain, Sen. Ernest Hollings, Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee
- Sen. Christopher Bond, Sen. John Kerry, Senate Small Business Committee