

The Leelanau School

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 9, 1997

CC 96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commissioner
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Ness,

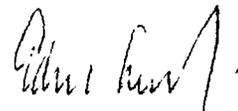
I am Edson Sheppard, President of Leelanau School in Glen Arbor, Michigan. Leelanau is an independent, small (70 students), college preparatory boarding school located in a rural area in northwestern Michigan. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

As a boarding school in a rural area, our students do not have access to a major research library. They need full access to the Internet at reasonable costs. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Edson P. Sheppard, Jr.
President

APR 14 3 10 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION

EPS/sm



The Leelanau Center For Education

One Old Homestead Road • Glen Arbor, Michigan 49636 • 616/334-5800 • Fax 616/334-5899



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Ford Motor Company

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

330 Town Center Drive
Suite 600
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

April 23, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20054

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong:

It has been brought to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is contemplating an increase in the Subscriber Line Charge presently imposed on business lines as well as the imposition of a new monthly line charge, possibly named FERC, of \$4.50 or more. I also understand that the FCC has decided not to reduce access charges even though there is a substantial body of evidence more than justifying reductions in those charges by at least \$2.9 billion annually.

At a time when American business is trying to compete on a global basis and already faces higher costs than business in almost all other countries - witness the enormous trade imbalance - the FCC seems poised to exacerbate the situation by increasing our costs in the face of evidence that access charges should be lowered.

Moreover, as others have already pointed out, the actions under consideration by the Commission are no more than new taxes and as such are clearly more the province of the Congress than that of the FCC. My reading of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 reveals no delegation by the Congress of new taxing authority to the FCC. Accordingly, I urge you not to adopt the proposed FERC and to finally direct the Local Exchange Carriers to reduce their access charges - reductions that are long overdue.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Tucker
Telecommunications Services Manager



96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 24, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M St. NW Room 844
 Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

In Reference to: Ex Parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262.

It has come to our attention that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERQ, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. Concurrently, while the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses and adjusted costs to residential telephone users, we understand the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

We urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures." With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. In addition, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just the telecommunications matter by the FCC.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which amount to more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janna L. Harvey".

Janna L. Harvey
 Director Telecommunications



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 28, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

MAY 1 1997

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong:

TCA, the Information Technology and Telecommunications Association has recently been informed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering a proposal that would increase the Subscriber Line Charge for business lines, and impose a new charge, a Federal Equitable Recovery Charge or FERC, of approximately \$4.50 per month per line on multi-line business customers to support extending telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. While the FCC is considering imposing these new charges on business, (which for the 475 member companies of TCA would conservatively amount to over \$50 million in additional charges) the Commission has not and is not considering the long overdue action of moving the cost of local access services closer to true cost.

While we support, in principle, the initiative to bring telecommunications facilities to schools and libraries for increased access, we are concerned that the FCC is not balancing the cost of this initiative with: 1) the current economic position of the incumbent Local Exchange Carriers which in most instances will be the beneficiary of both use of this subsidy funding to install these services, and will also receive the income from the use of these services; 2) a number of states either have enacted or are in the process of establishing programs to support telecommunications access for schools, libraries, etc., and 3) there is no evidence that ubiquitous competitive entry into the local exchange is forthcoming, and the proposed FERC does nothing to drive rates closer to true cost, and only entrench the philosophy of socialized rate making requiring business customers to subsidize other classes of service.

We urge you not adopt the proposed FERC or any other initiative which increases already uneconomic rates without a true rate reform proceeding by the FCC with the objective of driving rates closer to actual cost.

Sincerely,

A.A. "Scoop" SAIRANEN
President - Elect

74 New Montgomery
Suite 200
San Francisco, CA
94105-3411

415/777-4647
415/777-5295 fax

Familian corp

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 28, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Chairman ;

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate balancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Joyce Gordon
Communications Administrator

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-4911

28 April 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

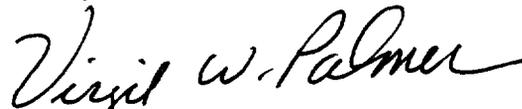
Dear Commissioner Chong:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly call a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the peoples representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Virgil W. Palmer
Manager, Computing and Telecommunications
Infrastructure Services

CC 96-45



RECEIVED
 MAY 1 1997
 Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

To: Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong

4/23/97

From: John R Morris - Director of Telecommunications

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R Morris', is written over the 'From:' line.

While I applaud the Commissions proposal to raise money to bring the net to public schools (k thru `12) and libraries; I must beg you to make higher education exempt from this increase. . As a state agency with a fixed budget the only way I'm going to be able to absorb this substantial increase is to forgo our plans to wire the residence halls for the net. It's really a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul and in this case a lot of the Peters are future teachers that will be teaching the Pauls how to use the net.

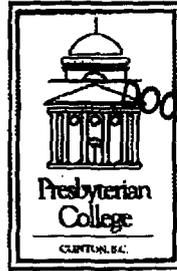
Thank you for your consideration.

CC Brian Moir
 Jeri Semer

96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
May 1, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

via FAX 202-418-2820

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Presbyterian College is greatly concerned by reports of possible increases in the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and pre-subscribed lines (PSL) surcharges. One report indicated the possibility of an increase of \$8.00 per month charge for each business line including each Centrex line. Such a charge, depending on how implemented, could cost Presbyterian College more than \$8,000.00 per month: the equivalent of more than five full scholarships including tuition, fees, room, and board. Or, looking at it another way, this would represent an increase of almost 33% in our local telephone service bill.

We certainly hope that the commission rejects any such ideas.

The provision of discounted telecommunications services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities may be a worthwhile public policy goal but if so it should be funded directly by Congress, not in this manner.

Presbyterian College is certainly not alone among institutions of higher education using Centrex services. Any proposal that increases fees for businesses also affects colleges, universities, and other non profits which must purchase business telephone services.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter. Once again we hope that discounted telecommunication services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities would not be subsidized through increases in business telephone fees that feed the Universal Service Fund.

Sincerely,

Morris M. Galloway Jr.
Dean of Administrative Services

MMG:jwc

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

1530 CONCORDIA WEST • IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92612-3299
714-854-8002

96-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

April 29, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong,

Recently Concordia University became aware of a proposal that would significantly increase Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) for multi-line customers. As an administrator of a private, Liberal Arts university, I must inform you that our administration is very much opposed to the proposed increases. During an era in which colleges and universities are being challenged to stop increasing tuition, the proposed SLC increase would significantly impact an already tight budget.

Although Concordia University is certainly empathic to the need to provide telecommunications for public K-12 schools, we request that the revenue for that project be generated in a different venue.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

Dr. Mary Hall
Dr. Mary Hall
Vice President
Dean of University Services

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Commissioner Rachelle B	From	Dr. Mary Hall
Co./Dept.	Chong	Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

2237 Saratoga Drive
Findlay, Ohio 45840
April 28, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

Ms. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N W
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Ms. Chong,

The purpose of my letter is to register my very strong opposition to the proposed FCC regulations concerning multi-line users. While your goal of wiring public schools, libraries and rural health care agencies to the Internet is noble, the \$3 billion cost should not be directed to businesses. Instead local authorities or school districts should pursue this if they deem it to be necessary. The proposed regulations are essentially a social program that has never ever been brought to the voters.

I have written my Senators and Congressman as well to ensure that they are aware of my strong opposition to these proposed regulations. I sincerely hope that you will seriously consider abandoning these very costly regulations that the consumers of goods and services will ultimately have to pay.

Sincerely,


Richard F. Giroux



St. Louis Community College

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Joseph P. Cosand Community College Center
300 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102-2810
314/539-5000 • FAX 314/539-5170

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC. 20554

March 29, 1997

C RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

St. Louis Community is aware that the Federal Communications Commission is considering proposals that would target multi-line business customers with major increases in Subscriber Line Charges (SLC). Other charges that you are considering include presubscribed line (PSL) surcharges, "universal service social agenda obligation" fees for Cellular, PCS, and Paging companies, and finally a increase in the SLC cap on second residential lines. This revenue is planned to subsidize inside wiring and access to the network for public K-12 schools and libraries, access to the network for rural health care facilities, and increases in lifeline service.

While the end result of these charges has merit, the FCC must also consider the Higher Educational Institution, especially public funded, when looking at the economic impact of these plans. The impact of SLC and PSL charges for St. Louis Community College for trunk lines alone will increase our annual communications expense by nearly \$20,000 annually. This doesn't count the pass through costs for paging and cellular services which have not been calculated at this point. Bottom line, these proposed increases would amount to 54% of our current annual line expenditure for access to our Internet provider.

These increases also offset decreases in line charges that were ordered by the Missouri Public Service Commission for educational institutions being serviced by Southwestern Bell Telephone. The savings which were considerable, were used to fund our access expenses for Internet service and to provide dial up service to the Internet.

I would encourage the Commission to review the impact of these proposed changes on Higher Educational Institutions. It should be remembered that increasing charges on the general business public eventually finds its way back to the consumer and to the Higher Educational Institutions in the form of higher charges for goods and services. Let's look at the current profit levels of communications providers. Obviously Southwestern Bell had sufficient profit to provide relief for all Missouri educational institutions in their service area. Why can't others do the same?

A college education is already a struggle for many. Let's not add more expense to the Higher Educational public institutions who are providing educational opportunity for the masses.

Sincerely

John P. Canavera

Manager, Telecommunications & Engineering

- cc: Brian Moir
- Jeri Semer, ACUTA
- Dave Goslik, SLCC
- Pat Donohue, SLCC
- Gary Jones, SLCC

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SPILLANE

APR 30 10 41 AM '97

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Robert R. Spillane, Superintendent
Burkholder Administrative Center
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

April 29, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools, a large school division with more than 200 schools and 6,000 classrooms, I urge you to support the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Providing affordable access to schools will increase educational opportunities for all students and expand the capability of school divisions to share resources and develop distance learning programs.

I am pleased that the Act not only establishes a discount education rate for telecommunications services, but also provides discounts on the costs to make the internal connections to classrooms. While all of our schools have computers, not all classrooms are connected. Clearly, this a costly undertaking for a division our size.

Educational technology is important in Fairfax County and in Virginia. Last year the local school board spent more than \$6 million on classroom technology. The state has taken an active role by dedicating more than \$99 million to technology in our elementary and secondary schools over the next two years. Moreover, the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution supporting the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act during the 1997 session.

The proposal before you removes significant financial barriers for many schools and, by providing assistance through discount plans, it maintains local authority to determine the level and types of services appropriate to the local educational mission. Your approval of the e-rate will enable many more students to take advantage of the vast resources available on the information superhighway.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Spillane
Superintendent of Schools

RRS/ms



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

APR 30 10 41 AM '97

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

96-451

April 30, 1997

A. HOPE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

- BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE
CONCORD
- BARTON COLLEGE
WILSON
- BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
BELMONT
- BENNETT COLLEGE
GREENSBORO
- BREVARD COLLEGE
BREVARD
- CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
BUICK CREEK
- CATAWBA COLLEGE
SALISBURY
- CHOWAN COLLEGE
MURFREESBORO
- DAVIDSON COLLEGE
DAVIDSON
- DUKE UNIVERSITY
DURHAM
- ELON COLLEGE
ELON COLLEGE
- GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY
BOILING SPRINGS
- GREENSBORO COLLEGE
GREENSBORO
- GUILFORD COLLEGE
GREENSBORO
- HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
HIGH POINT
- JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY
CHARLOTTE
- LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE
BANNER ELK
- LENOIR-RHYNE COLLEGE
HICKORY
- LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE
SALISBURY
- LOUISBURG COLLEGE
LOUISBURG
- MARS HILL COLLEGE
MARS HILL
- MEREDITH COLLEGE
RALEIGH
- METHODIST COLLEGE
FAYETTEVILLE
- MONTREAT COLLEGE
MONTREAT
- MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
MOUNT OLIVE
- N.C. WESLEYAN COLLEGE
ROCKY MOUNT
- PEACE COLLEGE
RALEIGH
- PREIFFER UNIVERSITY
MISENHEIMER
- QUEENS COLLEGE
CHARLOTTE
- ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE
LAURINBURG
- SANT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE
RALEIGH
- SANT MARY'S COLLEGE
RALEIGH
- SALEM COLLEGE
WINSTON-SALEM
- SHAW UNIVERSITY
RALEIGH
- WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
WINSTON-SALEM
- WARREN WILSON COLLEGE
ASHEVILLE
- WINGATE UNIVERSITY
WINGATE

Ms. Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Ms. Ness:

It has come to our attention that regulations are being considered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requirement of discounted telecommunication services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities subsidized through the Universal Service Fund. These regulations include raising the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and imposition of a pre subscribed line (PSL) surcharge. These changes would have a significant negative impact on the independent colleges and universities of North Carolina.

The proposed increases in monthly charges, laudable goals of the legislation notwithstanding, will raise telecommunication costs as much as 25% for independent colleges and universities that are aggressively reducing costs in order to moderate annual increases in their tuition and fees. Indeed, operating budgets are already set for our institutions through the 1998 fiscal year. The immediate and longer term impact of the proposed fees may upset the financial equilibrium of some institutions.

We ask that the proposed regulations be reconsidered or changed to eliminate the severe negative effects for higher education institutions.

Thank you for your consideration and concern.

Sincerely,

A. Hope Williams

c: Brian Moir
Jeri Semer

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-4911

28 April 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly call a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the peoples representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Virgil W. Palmer
Manager, Computing and Telecommunications
Infrastructure Services

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

April 28, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20544

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: Ex parte in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new cost on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American business, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structure". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than 3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Vernell V. Fultz
Telecommunications Administrator
The Salk Institute

Cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt

Commissioner James H. Quello

Commissioner Susan Ness



96-45

MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

820 N. LASALLE BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60610-3284

PHYSICAL PLANT

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

24 April 1997

To Reed E. Hundt
James E. Quello
Rachelle B. Chong
Susan Ness

Fr Daniel Schombert
Plant Services Administrator

Re Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Moody Bible Institute is very concerned about the potential for any increase in telecommunications costs. Moody Bible Institute is a not-for-profit corporation that operates on a strict budget and is dependent upon donations in order to remain viable.

Thank you for every consideration in relation to Subscriber Line Charges; pre-subscribed line charges and any other telecommunications fee that may be considered by your office.

It should have the capability to accommodate multiple interactive applications, such as job training, health care and education, regardless of the user's race, color, national origin, income, residence in rural or urban area, or disability. By promoting investment and upgrade of the local network in the most affordable way possible, you will ensure the benefits of 21st century technology for all sectors of our society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara O'Connor *Gerald E. Depo*

Dr. Barbara O'Connor
Chair

Gerald E. Depo
President

cc: Commissioners Rachelle Chong, Susan Ness, James Quello
Secretary William Caton (two copies)



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUDHAKAR

Office of the President

APR 25 5 56 PM '97

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
 Commissioner James E. Quello
 Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 25, 1997

Reference: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) may approve large increases in Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and Pre-Subscribed Line (PSL) surcharges. Universities affected by these increases will in effect underwrite the FCC costs to implement requirements of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 for discounted telecommunication service to K-12 public schools, libraries, and rural health facilities.

Universal telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal, and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish this goal. However, we strongly protest shifting the burden of building this fund to private, non-profit educational institutions.

Private institutions of higher learning already contribute more than their fair share to foster public information access. First, as you know, private institutions such as Florida Institute of Technology decrease the burden on public educational systems and reduce the overall national costs of educating our citizens, by offering high quality education at significant lower cost than possible in the public sector. Second, Florida Tech participates as one of six Florida Area Centers for Excellence in Education, developing improved curricula and educational delivery systems targeting underachieving public K-12 schools. The state and federal funding we receive by no means covers the full costs of our contribution. Finally, we allocate large budgets and other resources to the Government Depository Library System, providing electronic and on-site access to the entire Central Florida region. We are sure that you are familiar with the rigorous standards and cost implications of participating in this program. Our university library closes doors to none of our community neighbors. We serve and share resources with our community. Funding for these services comes from our operating budgets, without public subsidy.

Florida Institute of Technology

150 West University Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901-6988 • (407) 768 8000, ext. 7232 • Fax: (407) 984-8461

The impact of the increases in SLC & PSL charges at Florida Tech is estimated to be \$144,000 annually. We cannot afford to absorb this increase without jeopardizing or eliminating these public services.

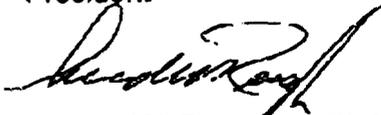
We urge you to look elsewhere than to private, non-profit institutions of higher learning to underwrite universal connectivity.

That seems only fair.

Sincerely,



Lynn Edward Weaver, Ph.D., P.E.
President



Andrew W. Revay, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Vice President for Academic Affairs



Celine Alvcy, D.P.A.
Associate Vice President for Information Services

cc: Jeri A. Samer, Executive Director, ACUTA
Brian Moir, Attorney
The Honorable Dave Weldon
Senator Patsy Ann Kurth
Senator Charlie Bronson

April 24, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Re: CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-262
Ex Parte Communications

Dear Chairman Hundt,

Advocates for people with disabilities have made access to technology a main policy goal for the 1990s. Our focus has been on universal design and public policies that will allow people with disabilities to have ready access to the same technologies as others. The advances in telecommunications access that will be achieved as a result of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will depend on all consumers having affordable access to a well-maintained, robust, high-capacity local network.

We are concerned that the Universal Service and Access Reform proceedings underway at the FCC could undermine our efforts to make sure that people with disabilities have full access to modern telecommunications services. The FCC's revision of these basic rules will have a major impact on the integrity and capacity of the public network. The public network is our link to all telephone and other communications services.

As we are only too keenly aware, the progress made on disability access in the new law is only a first step. Real access to telecommunications can only be achieved if network-based services are made accessible, as required by Section 255 of the Act. Major technology companies recently announced universal design policies -- a very exciting development for disability and technology advocates. If properly implemented, these policies will make basic telephone service and new features such as Caller ID, Internet Services, and Video Services more accessible. However, the regulations governing Section 255 have yet to be written. Even with meaningful regulations, the accessibility of these services depend on the deployment of an advanced, high capacity local network available to all telephone customers.

Universal service has been the foundation on which the telecommunications infrastructure was built in this country. Together we must make sure universal service remains the goal in a competitive market, not a casualty. The universal service rules you are writing only address a small part of that public policy goal. Drastic reductions in access charges threaten to push up local rates or to discourage investment in the network. Increases in the subscriber line charge on second phone lines discourage, and sometimes prevent, people from enjoying the benefits of the information age. Rules that force rates up and discourage investment will erode universal service, regardless of much money you put in a fund.

Issues of affordability and accessibility bring together rural America and inner city dwellers, people of color, children and families, senior citizens and people with disabilities. We strongly object to any public policies that will result in higher rates or decreasing investment in the local telephone network. It is unwise and counter-productive to ignore the important relationship between the goals of access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities and the broader policy goals of affordability and the integrity of the local network.

Sincerely,

Steven Tremblay
Alpha One

Frank Bowe
Hofstra University*

Mary Pecha
College for Living

Allen H. Karp
Florida Association of the Deaf

Frank Pinter
MCIL Resources for Independent Living

Cheryl A. Heppner
Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

Allen H. Karp
Palm Beach County Association of the Deaf

Betsy Bayha
World Institute on Disability

*organization for identification only

cc: House Commerce Committee
Senate Commerce Committee
Commissioners Raachelle Chong, Susan Ness, James Quello
Secretary William Caton (two copies)

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from the desk of Sharon Stys

Trustee, South Whittier School District
9490 Amsdell Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605
Phone (310) 945-1055 Fax (310) 945-3324
Email: charon19@mail.idt.net

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the South Whittier School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need

these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sharon Stys