

Ralston Purina
Company

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

May 2, 1995

MAY 6 1997

Commissioner James E. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: *ExParte* Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am writing to express Ralston Purina Company's opposition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal to substantially raise the telephone bills on multi-line telephone users -- primarily businesses -- when reforming its rules on May 6th regarding universal service and interstate access charges in light of the new telecommunications law passed by Congress last year.

This proposal would increase the multi-line business subscriber line charge cap from \$6 to \$9.50 per line per month, create a new charge for each pre-subscribed telephone line of \$4.50 per line per month, and increase the cost of dedicated access by \$400 million. These increases combined, would result in approximately a \$250,000 per year increase in telecommunications costs for Ralston Purina. Only a small portion of these increases would be offset by lower long distance savings.

When the new telecommunications act became law 14 months ago, we applauded the bold predictions regarding local telephone competition and lower rates. While it will take a number of years before meaningful levels of competition become available, it now appears that the FCC leadership is proposing to raise, not lower, the telecommunications costs of American business. We do not question the goal of wiring schools and libraries. Rather, we question the manner in which the charge is to be levied and the fact that it is being levied on business customers who are already being overcharged for their telephone services.

At a time when American business is trying to compete at home and abroad, it makes no sense for the FCC single out those same businesses with higher telecommunications costs. When considering proposals to reform universal service and interstate access charge rules, we urge you to reject any direct or indirect end user line charges that unfairly target American multi-line business customers.

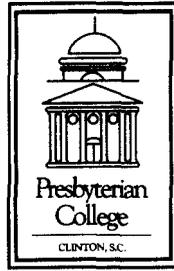
Sincerely,

George J. Miller
Senior Manager
Telecommunications Services

RECEIVED

MAY 2 11 11 AM '97

JAMES E. QUELLO



RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

May 1, 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Commissioner James E. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

via FAX 202-418-2802

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

Dear Commissioner Quello:

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Office of the President
(330) 672-2210
FAX (330) 672-3281



P. O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001

May 6, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James E. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

Federal Communications Commissions
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

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

It has come to our attention that the FCC may approve significant increases in telephone Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and Pre-Subscriber Line Surcharges (PSLC) for multi-line business customers plus level a "universal service social agenda obligation fee" for cellular, PCS, and paging services. Colleges and universities affected by these increases will in effect be major players in underwriting the FCC costs to implement requirements of the 1996 Telecommunications Act for discounted telecommunications services to K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities, and lifeline services.

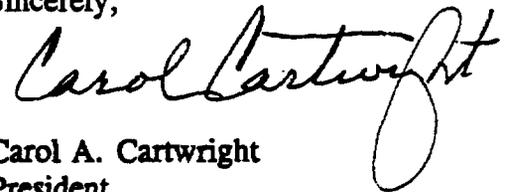
Universal telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal, and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish this worthy goal. While the end result of these charges has merit, the FCC must consider the impact of these increases on higher education institutions, especially publicly-funded institutions.

We would encourage the Commission to review the impact of the proposed changes and the financial implications for higher education institutions. The impact of the proposed increases at Kent State University is estimated to be more than \$480,000 annually. We respectfully request any assistance in the reconsideration of regulations in order to exempt public higher education. Public institutions have gone through a period of severe cuts in state funding, high costs, and many other unfunded mandates.

Federal Communications Commissions
Page Two
May 6, 1997

The affordability of a college education is already a struggle for many. We hope that the Commission will not inadvertently target the scarce resources of higher education to subsidize K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities and lifeline services. Thank you very much for your consideration and review.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Cartwright
President

cc: **Congressman Sherrod Brown**
Senator Michael DeWine
Senator John Glenn
Congressman Dennis Kucinich
Congressman Steven LaTourette
Congressman Robert Ney
Congressman Ralph Regula
Congressman Thomas Sawyer
Congressman Louis Stokes
Congressman James Traficant, Jr.



Dynamic Controls Inc.

The possibilities are endless...

To: Reed Hundt
From : Tommy Bowen
Date : 5-May-97
Re : Modem Tax

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I own a small ISP in North Carolina. I am writing this letter to urge you not to vote for the proposed "modem tax", a provision of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sponsored by Senators Olympia Snowe, Jay Rockefeller, James Exon, and Bob Kerrey). We do not think this tax is fair, nor necessary. Our company already provides completely FREE access to every student and teacher in our school system currently. I know of other examples of ISPs who provide free access to school systems as well. This tax would greatly impact our business, and could possibly have ludicrous results. For example, the increased cost we incur due to this tax may cause us to cancel our free access for students and teachers, in order that we can charge them to pay for the tax increase that is supposed to provide them low-cost access.

I urge you to vote against this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely

Tommy Bowen
tommy@roxboro.net
PO Box 66
Rougemont, NC 27572



Dynamic Controls Inc.

The possibilities are endless...

To: James Quello
From : Tommy Bowen
Date : 5-May-97
Re : Modem Tax

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MAY - 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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tommy@roxboro.net
PO Box 66
Rougemont, NC 27572



Dynamic Controls Inc.

The possibilities are endless...

To: Rachelle Chong
From : Tommy Bowen
Date : 5-May-97
Re : Modem Tax

RECEIVED
MAY - 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong,

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Sincerely

Tommy Bowen
tommy@roxboro.net
PO Box 66
Rougemont, NC 27572

.....

Dynamic Controls, Inc.
Rougemont, NC 27572
(910) 364-9252
Fax (910) 364-9262

facsimile transmittal

To: Commissioner Susan Ness **Fax:** (202) 418-0232

From: Tommy Bowen **Date:** May 5, 1997

Re: Modem Tax **Pages:** 2

CC:

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply
- Please Recycle

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Notes:

CONFIDENTIAL

.....



Dynamic Controls Inc.

The possibilities are endless...

To: Susan Ness
From : Tommy Bowen
Date : 5-May-97
Re : Modem Tax

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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I urge you to vote against this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely

Tommy Bowen
tommy@roxboro.net
PO Box 66
Rougemont, NC 27572



May 5, 1997

William F. Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: Access Charge Reform
CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of LCI International Telecom Corp., please take notice that on May 3, 1997, Anne K. Bingaman, President Local Telecommunications Division - LCI, discussed with FCC Commissioner Rachelle Chong the above mentioned docket and related Access Charge Reform letters addressed to the FCC from H. Brian Thompson, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of LCI dated April 21 and April 29, 1997, as well as issues raised in Comments of LCI International Telecom Corp. filed on above-mentioned docket of January 29, 1997.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, an original and one copy of this notice is provided for inclusion in the public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas W. Kinkoph". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a large, stylized initial "DK" at the end.

Douglas W. Kinkoph



Earving L. Blythe

Vice President for Information Systems
310 Burruss Hall, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0169
(540) 231-4227; FAX: (540) 231-3456, e-mail: blythe@vt.edu

May 6, 1997

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD MAY 6 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James E. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that the FCC may approve a significant increase in the telephone Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) and impose a new Pre-Subscriber Line surcharge (PSLC) for multi-line business customers. These fees would be used to subsidize telecommunications services to K-12 public schools, libraries, and rural health facilities through the Universal Service Fund. Universities are required to purchase business telephone services. Therefore, higher education institutions will, in effect, underwrite the costs to provide these services to other agencies.

Telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish it. However, the FCC must also consider the impact of these proposed charges on communications costs paid by higher education institutions. At Virginia Tech, our annual costs would increase by at least \$120,000 on our main campus and by an unknown amount for Extension Office locations throughout our state.

We would encourage the Commission to review the impact of the proposed changes and the financial implications for higher education institutions before making a final ruling. Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Earving L. Blythe
Vice President, Information Systems

- cc: Senator Charles S. Robb
- Senator John W. Warner
- Congressman Rick C. Boucher
- Dr. Paul E. Torgersen, President, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Mr. Ralph Byers, Director of Government Relations, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Mr. Brian Moir, Attorney
- Ms. Jeri Semer, Executive Director, ACUTA

Office of the President
(330) 672-2210
FAX (330) 672-3281

SUNSHINE PERIOD



P. O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001

May 6, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James E. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Federal Communications Commissions
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commissions
Page Two
May 6, 1997

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Sincerely,



Carol A. Cartwright
President

cc: Congressman Sherrod Brown
Senator Michael DeWine
Senator John Glenn
Congressman Dennis Kucinich
Congressman Steven LaTourette
Congressman Robert Ney
Congressman Ralph Regula
Congressman Thomas Sawyer
Congressman Louis Stokes
Congressman James Traficant, Jr.

CLARK
REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 6, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle Chong
ATTN: Eileen Duff
Fax: 202-418-2820

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Clark Regional Medical Center solicits your support for the adoption of a telecommunications policy to be voted on by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which will have significant impact on rural health providers. The adoption of the Universal Service policy would:

- 1) support and subsidize distance charges, and
- 2) support toll-free connections to the Internet

Adopting universal service regulations will allow rural providers to receive the same rates for telecommunications lines used in telemedicine that urban providers receive. It would also allow connection to the Internet without having to pay long distance charges where a local Internet service provider is unavailable.

Please consider this information in your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Fraraccio

Robert D. Fraraccio
CEO

RDF:to



St. Elizabeth Medical Center

95-262

• Marketing • Public Relations • Physician Services •

St. Elizabeth North Unit, 401 East 20th Street, Covington, KY 41014

St. Elizabeth South Unit, One Medical Village Dr., Edgewood, KY 41017

Fax # 606-292-4694

Telephone: Marketing 292-4320 P.R. 292-4300 Phys. Serv. 292-4023

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

RECEIVED

Date 5/6/97 Time 4:00 pm

MAY 6 1997

To: Commsioner Jim Quello

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

FCC

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Rosanne Nields

of pages including this cover 2

Notes: _____

If you encounter difficulty receiving or reading this message, please call Rosanne

in Marketing P.R. Physician Services; phone ext. 606 292-4300

Privileged and Confidential: The information contained in this facsimile is privileged and confidential medical information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any examination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone, and return the original message to us at the above address via the U.S. postal service. Your message will be reimbursed for any telephone and postage expenses incurred.

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May 6, 1997

Commissioner Jim Quello
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Quello:

On behalf of St. Elizabeth Medical Center, I would like to express our support of the telecommunications "universal service" policy which is scheduled for a vote at tomorrow's meeting. St. Elizabeth Medical Center is a three hospital system with one of hospitals being a 30 bed facility located in a rural county. We believe that telemedicine will have great value for the population and providers in our rural service area.

Adopting universal service regulations will allow us and other rural providers to receive the same rates for telecommunications lines used in telemedicine that urban providers receive. This will reduce the cost and encourage the telecommunications link with our rural facility.

Thank you for your consideration and hopefully vote to support this very important policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rosanne Nields'.

Rosanne Nields
Director of Marketing and
Government Affairs

cc: Joseph W. Gross
President and Chief Executive Officer



St. Elizabeth Medical Center

96-262

• Marketing • Public Relations • Physician Services •

St. Elizabeth North Unit, 401 East 20th Street, Covington, KY 41014

St. Elizabeth South Unit, One Medical Village Dr., Edgewood, KY 41017

Fax # 606-292-4694

Telephone: Marketing 292-4320 P.R. 292-4300 Phys. Serv. 292-4022

SUNSHINE PERIOD

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

RECEIVED

Date 5/6/97 Time 4:00 pm

MAY 6 1997

To: Commissioner Rachelle Chary
FCC

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Rosanne Nields

of pages including this cover 2

Notes: _____

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in Marketing P.R. Physician Services; phone ext. 606 292-4200

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May 6, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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Thank you for your consideration and hopefully vote to support this very important policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rosanne Nields'.

Rosanne Nields
Director of Marketing and
Government Affairs

cc: Joseph W. Gross
President and Chief Executive Officer



St. Elizabeth Medical Center

96-262

• Marketing • Public Relations • Physician Services •

St. Elizabeth North Unit, 401 East 20th Street, Covington, KY 41014

St. Elizabeth South Unit, One Medical Village Dr., Edgewood, KY 41017

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Telephone: Marketing 292-4320 P.R. 292-4300 Phys. Serv. 292-4023

SUNSHINE PERIOD

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Date 5/6/97 Time 4:00 pm

To: Commissioner Susan Ness

FCC

From: Rosanne Nields

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Thank you for your consideration and hopefully vote to support this very important policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rosanne Nields'.

Rosanne Nields
Director of Marketing and
Government Affairs

cc: Joseph W. Gross
President and Chief Executive Officer

95-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Conemaugh Valley School District
1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
April 30, 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Technology Committee, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest 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, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

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,

