

Labels

96-262



MAY 1 2 1997

OFFICE OF PURCHASING

1013 FRANKLIN
P.O. BOX 5000
VANCOUVER, WA 98666-5000

April 25, 1997

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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 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 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 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. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities not just 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 those reforms.

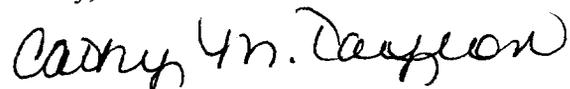
PAGE TWO

April 25, 1997

Federal Access Charge/FERO

Additionally please be advised that a rate increase of the subscriber line charge to \$9.50 and the addition of the FERO charge would increase our annual costs \$23,946. based on present usage. An increase which is unreasonable and burdensome to any business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy M. Taylor".

Cathy M. Taylor
Telecommunications Coordinator
Clark County/Vancouver, WA

CMT:cmt



EPITOPE

April 24, 1997

Michael L. Dunton
Epitope Incorporated
8505 S.W. Creekside Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have learned, through our association in *The Information Technology and Telecommunications Association* (TCA), that the *Federal Communications Commission* (FCC) is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month. It is our understanding that these new fees are intended as support for extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that the FCC 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 rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the responsibility of the citizen elected representatives, and not appointed officials. Furthermore, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all responsible authorities and 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,

Michael L. Dunton
Information and Telecommunication Systems Manager

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello, Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner Susan Ness
Elizabeth Furse, US Representative
Gordon Smith, US Senator
Ron Wyden, US Senator

ccp
Epitope Inc.

8505 SW Creekside Place

Beaverton, Oregon 97005

503.641.6115

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**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

~~EX PARTE OR LATE FILED~~



96-262

Donald E. Norman
Senior Vice President
Chief Information Officer

Kmart Corporation
International Headquarters
3100 West Big Beaver Road
Troy MI 48064-3163

May 5, 1997

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MAY 12 1997

Reed Hundt
Chairman Federal Communication Commission
1919 M NW
Washington D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Chief Information Officer for Kmart Corporation, I am writing to express our company's concerns about the possible Federal Communications Commission's action which could substantially raise our telephone bills. This is referred to as the "Exparte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262". Our information suggests that the Commission will vote May 6 on, among other things, the imposition of a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per month beginning this coming January, which would increase to \$6.00 per month the next year, to be used to wire schools and libraries for the Internet.

We do not question the wisdom of wiring schools and libraries, and we have no objection to its inclusion in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Rather, we question the manner in which this new charge is to be levied, and the fact that the Commission has, to our knowledge, not determined how the money might be distributed. Business customers are already overcharged significantly by their local telephone companies, and we wonder why that money could not be used to accomplish the worthy goal of wiring schools and libraries.

If these charges are instituted, the impact on us would be substantial. Kmart has more than 20,000 telephone lines thereby resulting in yearly surcharges of \$1,080,000. These surcharges would be unduly burdensome and we believe do not reflect the intent of Congress when it acted to bring advanced technology to America's classroom.

We ask you to consider the effect that such a proposal would have on retailers and the resulting impact on shoppers who would bear the expense in higher prices on the goods we sell. Retailers are increasingly reliant on telecommunications in the routine management of their business. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Norman

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~~EXPERIMENTAL~~



Donald E. Norman
Senior Vice President
Chief Information Officer

Kmart Corporation
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Troy MI 48084-3163
810 614 1947
Fax 810 643 5627

May 5, 1997

Reed Hundt
Chairman Federal Communication Commission
1919 M NW
Washington D.C. 20554

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MAY 12 1997

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Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Donald E. Norman

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