

97-121

**From:** LORI SMITH <lgsmith@earthlink.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(sness,rchong)  
**Date:** 4/25/97 7:51am  
**Subject:** Southwestern Bell allowed into the long distance market

April 23, 1997

Commissioners Susan Ness and Rachelle Chong  
Federal Communication Commission

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**MAY 19 1997**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioners;

Allow Southwestern Bell Telephone into the long distance market.

I am executive director of a dynamic non-profit organization representing 11,000 women business owners in the Oklahoma City area. Our members are business customers, and believe that free market competition must exist in the communication business. It is apparent that many other providers of long distance services have entered the market in Oklahoma to date. We believe that in a truly "level-playing-field" environment, market forces will bring those companies that are providing the best service at the optimum price to the forefront. We would like to see Southwestern Bell allowed into the long distance arena, and allowed to compete for our business.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lori G. Smith  
Executive Director  
Working Women's Money University & The Women's Business Center

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 25, 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt,

Let me begin by telling you I supported the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It was my belief, and remains so, that Congress passed the bill because of its commitment to bring increased competition to the telephone industry.

As I supported the Act of one year ago, so do I support Southwestern Bell's application to the Federal Communications Commission to offer interLATA long-distance services to the people of Oklahoma. From my viewpoint, Oklahomans can soon have the opportunity for another choice in long-distance providers; can soon have the convenience of one-stop shopping; can soon have added insurance that rates may finally stabilize, if not decrease, for business and residential consumers.

From my point of view as Purchasing Agent at Greenleaf Nursery Co. Inc., this is an opportunity that not only benefits Oklahoma businesses, but also its residential consumers as well. The fact is, I believe Southwestern Bell's entry into this market will result in financial savings for all Oklahoma consumers. Isn't that what Congress wanted when it passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996? And isn't that what Oklahomans should expect now that the bill has become law in this country?

Should you or any member of your staff be willing to talk to me about this matter I would welcome the opportunity to express my feelings. I urge you to follow Congress's lead and support Southwestern Bell's 271 filing. If you do, then perhaps we can finally reap the benefits envisioned in that historic Act of a year ago.

Sincerely,

Don L. Wilson, Jr.  
Purchasing Agent  
918-457-4181 ext. 224

CC:

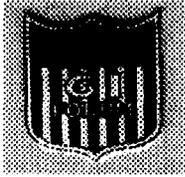
Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong

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# OKC CHAPTER \* AMERICAN GI FORUM

A Veterans Family Organization Since 1948

Pfc. Manuel Perez Jr. Center  
Commander, Jose 'Marty' Martinez

Telephone (405) 522-1272  
2501 South Western, Oklahoma City, OK73101

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

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April 14, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

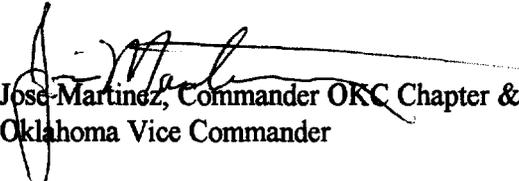
We have recently become aware that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has applied for a Long Distance Carrier's license from the Federal Communications Commission and we would like to inform you of our support on behalf of Southwestern Bell.

All of our members are Southwestern Bell Telephone subscribers and the majority of them have had bad experiences with many of the current long-distance carriers now soliciting business in Oklahoma. With Southwestern Bell we have a proven and trusted company with a history of reliable, affordable telephone and customer service. It would be very convenient for all of us if we only had to deal with one proven company for all of our telephone services. Many of our members are elderly and when problems with long-distance calls occur, they sometimes pay rather than go through all the hassle of dealing with their current long-distance carriers. These same members are on fixed incomes and can hardly afford that loss.

The partnership that Southwestern Bell has with the people of Oklahoma goes beyond the normal partnerships between businesses and the public. For years, Southwestern Bell Telephone has been the leader in forging partnerships with our public schools by providing communications access to much of the high technologies they now enjoy. This includes video computer conferencing, inter-net access and the fiber-optic lines that carry that technology.

The job growth, competitive posture, more choices, and of course, one carrier who will provide all services, will be great for Oklahoma, in particular, our rural areas. On behalf of our Oklahoma membership, I respectfully ask that you accept this letter in support of Southwestern Bell's request.

Sincerely,

  
Jose Martinez, Commander OKC Chapter &  
Oklahoma Vice Commander

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- Mexican American Political Association of Oklahoma
- American GI Forum National

*"Education Is Our Freedom And Freedom Should Be Everybody's Business"*

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Greater Shawnee Chamber of Commerce

97-121  
**SEDF**

Shawnee Economic Development Foundation, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1613 • Shawnee, OK 74802-1613

April 25, 1997

Ms. Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

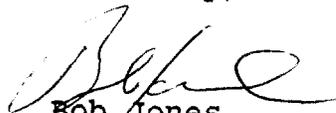
Dear Ms. Ness:

At this time, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is considering the fourteen (14) FCC requirements Southwestern Bell must meet to be authorized to offer long distance service for Oklahomans.

Southwestern Bell is doing an outstanding job of providing services in Oklahoma. With their entry into long distance service, we will benefit greatly by the creation of new jobs in Oklahoma, thus enhancing our state's economy.

Your approval will allow Southwestern Bell the ability to offer our citizens more choices, better service and greater value for services.

Sincerely;

  
Bob Jones  
President/CEO

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MAY 19 1997

From: ray stout <airforce@chickasaw.com>  
To: 'sness@fcc.gov' <sness@fcc.gov>  
Date: 4/26/97 6:35pm

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Susan Ness:

Yesterday the Oklahoma Corporation Commission voted to report to the FCC =  
that Southwestern Bell  
has met pre-conditions for obtaining long-distance authority in =  
Oklahoma as set by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. I = believe  
having another long-distance service would be good for  
Oklahoma.

As Graduate Dean Emeritus, East Central University, and a resident of = rural  
Oklahoma, I believe=20 telemedicine, telecommuting and long-distance learning  
will become more = widely used and improve=20 the quality of life in Oklahoma  
with more long-distance carriers.

Southwestern Bell has my support to offer long-distance service and I = ask  
you to give their application favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Ray Stout  
2208 Woodland Dr

Ada, Oklahoma 74820

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