

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



CC 96-45



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 6, 1997

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

PARRIS N. GLENDENING
GOVERNOR
ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
(410) 974-3901

WASHINGTON OFFICE
SUITE 311
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 638-2215

TDD (410) 333-3099

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Allow me this opportunity to address some issues regarding the Universal Service high assistance fund proposals under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It is my understanding that the FCC is currently reviewing various modifications to the Joint Board's Recommended High Cost Fund Proposal. I am very concerned that under most of these modified proposals Maryland's net contribution to the High Cost Fund would increase. Consequently, Maryland citizens would be forced to pay higher rates to account for the increased subsidy for telecommunications subscribers in other states. No citizen, regardless of where they live, should be overburdened with funding a high cost assistance program that is inequitably structured in size and scope. It is my recommendation that any proposal which would increase the size of the high cost fund be reconsidered.

Over the past few years, the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Public Service Commission have proactively developed a framework to foster telecommunications competition in Maryland. If the federal high cost fund is not structured appropriately, subsidies collected will distort the Maryland telecommunications market, hamper robust competition, and ultimately inhibit growth in economic development.

Chairman Russell Frisby of the Maryland Public Service Commission expressed similar concerns in his letter to you. I urge you and the FCC to heed Chairman Frisby's advice and defer any final decision on the size and scope of the high cost fund. Instead, I would ask that you consider Chairman Frisby's suggestion to reconvene the Joint Board to revisit this issue in order to allow adequate consideration of all concerns with the hope that a reasonable accommodation can be reached.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Parris N. Glendening

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

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cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Rachele B. Chong
The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
The Honorable Constance A. Morella
The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest
The Honorable Albert R. Wynn
The Honorable Roscoe G. Bartlett
The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 5, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Commissioner Susan Ness

Dear Sir:

Enclosed copy of a recent phone bill by my provider GTE. Your attention is directed to the section of Basic Service Taxes and Surcharges.

With all the news and information appearing in the news, I get the impression that the consumer will have reduced costs in one area and increased costs in another. "Murphy's Law" indicates the net result will be another increase. Hopefully, I am in error, but the taxes and surcharges also need to be analyzed.

Sincerely,



Robert Hoyt
6714 El Salvador St.
Long Beach, CA 90815-2405
Phone: 562-596-8675

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUPERVISOR

MAY 11 11 03 AM '97



TELEPHONE NUMBER 562 596-8675

Customer ID 68010

PAGE 3 OF 4

BILL DATE

March 13, 1997

PAYMENTS

1 Payment of \$ 52.90 received on Feb 25.

Total payment(s) of \$ 52.90 received.

GTE repair
call
Customer Care
1 800 483-1000

GTE BASIC SERVICE (Mar 13 to Apr 13)

				Amount
2	Primary Line		2 at 17.25	\$ 34.50
3	Interstate Subscriber Line Charge		2 lines	7.00
Total				\$ 41.50

GTE Basic Long Distance Calls

Calls billed to
562 596-8675

Direct Dialed Calls

	Date	Time	Place called	Number called	Period	Min.	Amount
4	Feb 16	7:58 am	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Night	3	\$.22
5	Feb 16	10:05 am	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Night	1	.08
6	Feb 24	4:22 pm	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Day	4	.48
7	Feb 26	7:04 pm	W Angeles CA	310 441-6277	Eve	1	.11
8	Mar 4	10:49 pm	W Angeles CA	310 441-6277	Eve	1	.11
9	Mar 5	10:46 am	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Day	1	.14
10	Mar 5	10:47 am	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Day	2	.25
11	Mar 12	5:52 pm	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Eve	5	.47
12	Mar 12	5:58 pm	Capitrvly CA	714 496-2583	Eve	2	.20
Total							\$ 2.06

Total basic long distance charges \$ 2.06

Basic Service Taxes and Surcharges

	Amount
13 Federal excise tax (3.00% of \$46.14)	\$ 1.38
14 Long Beach city tax (10.00% of \$46.14)	4.61
15 Funding to support the Public Utilities Commission	.04
16 911 State tax (0.72% of \$39.14)	.28
17 ULTS Surcharge (3.20% of \$36.56)	1.17
18 Temporary surcharge as allowed by Public Utilities Commission	.08
19 Temporary surcharge as allowed by Public Utilities Commission	CR .04
20 California Relay Service and communications devices fund	.13
21 CHCF-A(.00%) and CHCF-B(2.87%)	1.05
22 California teleconnect funding surcharge	.15
Total	\$ 8.85

GTE basic service charges \$ 52.41

Total GTE charges \$ 52.41

To order GTE services call 1 800 483-4000 or write to P.O. Box 4007, Whittier, CA 90607-4007.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
20th DISTRICT
GARY C. ALEXANDER

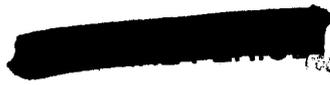
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State of
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Representatives

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APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES
TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



May 1, 1997



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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St NW Room 814
Washington DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I urge you to adopt the recommendations submitted to you in an ex parte of March 26 by the state members of the Federal-State Joint Board. That ex parte urges the FCC to adopt the February 13, 1997, Rural Telephone Company Transition Plan proposed by the United States Telephone Association and the Rural Telephone Coalition.

The Joint Board recommendation would freeze federal universal service support, which is essential for maintaining affordable telephone rates, at past investment levels on a per line basis for rural telephone companies. This freeze would chill any incentive for rural telephone companies to invest in new infrastructure and would cause severe damage to economic development in rural communities throughout the nation. The effect also could cause local rates to increase. For instance, companies with commitments to upgrade infrastructures, or under a state mandate to do so, will have to request rate increases in order to maintain financial stability.

The Joint Board recommendations would also cut off support for most business lines and all second residences or second lines in residences in high cost areas. This cut off would mean an immediate and significant decrease in the amount of universal service support these consumers' lines receive. Negative consequences of this proposal include:

- significantly higher cost of Internet usage for rural households and businesses that use a second line for their computer hookup;
- Increased prices for telecommunications services, so vital as an incentive for businesses to locate or remain in rural areas;
- administrative nightmares in attempting to figure out which lines fit in the supported versus an unsupported category.

It is essential that the FCC encourage investment in, and maintain affordable access to modern telecommunications services for all Americans, not just the high-end users. Your support for a fair universal service transition plan for rural telephone companies and rural consumers is vital to the future rural economic development of my district.

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Page 2

Please let me know how you plan to modify the Joint Boards recommendations to account continued infrastructure investment and affordable access for all the citizens of Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary C. Alexander".

Gary C. Alexander
Representative, 20th District

cc: FCC Commissioners: Rachelle Chong
 Susan Ness
 James Quello

May 6, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

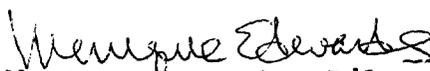
We/I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act — through its Universal Service Fund provisions — mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

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Monique Edwards, Librarian