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Ford Motor Company

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

330 Town Center Drive
Suite 600
Dearborn, Michigan 48126
April 23, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, DC 20054

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

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