

CC Docket 96-159

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SEP 12 1997

Date 2/15/97

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Common Carrier Bureau
Network Service Division
Office of the Chief

Dear Federal Communications Commission

FCC MAIL ROOM

I am writing this letter in reference to the efforts of the Citizens of Haskell, Texas (local telephone service is provided by GTE, Haskell is in the Wichita Falls LATA) to have Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford, Texas (local telephone service for these three cities is provided by Southwestern Bell, all three are in the Abilene LATA) as local telephone calls instead of long distance calls. The Citizens of Haskell voted in October of last year to approve Abilene as a local telephone call in our Expanded Local Calling (ELC) area. Previously the Citizens of Hamlin and Stamford had voted on and approved Haskell as a part of their ELC. Unfortunately, Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford as local phone calls has been put on an indefinite hold, due to the fact that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is not in the long distance telephone business. It is my understanding that Southwestern Bell has petitioned to be in this business but a decision is being delayed as the Federal Communications Commission, Texas Public Utilities Commission and Southwestern Bell work out their differences.

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I feel this delay is a great injustice to the Citizens of Haskell. Abilene is a very important regional center for our city. Abilene is a major retail and wholesale center, and regional government offices are located there. Many Haskell residents are enrolled in one of the three universities and the junior college in Abilene. Abilene is a major medical center for this area. Many businesses in Haskell are branches which have their headquarters in Abilene, and many of our residents commute there for jobs. Hamlin and Stamford are important retail markets for our local merchants. Many Haskell residents have family and friends located in these two communities.

I am requesting that you offer all of the assistance you can in our efforts to make local telephone calls to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford a reality in the very near future. I want to thank you in advance for your efforts on my and Haskell's behalf.

Sincerely, Kenneth Young

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