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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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November 26, 1997

Mr. William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace, CC Docket No. 97-61

Dear Mr. Kennard,

I am writing to express concerns about the FCC's proposal to eliminate public disclosure requirements for interstate, interexchange carriers in the proceeding referenced above. My name is Rohan Kalbag. As a concerned citizen residing in the state of California, I would like to take this opportunity to formally voice my opposition to this proposal.

While the FCC eliminated the tariff filing requirements for interexchange carriers, the FCC will continue to have the right to request this information at any given time. The only problem is that consumers lose all access to accurate usage rates. I strongly urge the FCC to reinstate the public disclosure clause and require that such pricing information be available to the public upon request. This could be done inexpensively, efficiently, with a minimum of administrative burden to either the FCC or to the interexchange carriers. Possible alternatives to disclosure could include: a web page, a central clearinghouse, or physical availability at designated carrier locations.

Such information will enable informed decision making by consumers and particularly small businesses that do not have the resources to obtain this information absent a public availability requirement. This information will also enable consumers to determine if interexchange carriers are pricing in a non-discriminatory manner. Even if the tariff filing requirement is eliminated, other provisions in the Communications Act require that carriers provide service in a non-discriminatory manner. It will be difficult to monitor statutory requirement if consumers have no means of accessing reliable information about carrier pricing.

In a competitive market such as that for interexchange telecommunications services, the availability of pricing information will only further foster that competitiveness. In conclusion, I strongly urge the FCC to require interexchange telephone companies to make their pricing information available in some manner that can be easily accessed by the consumer.

Sincerely,



Rohan Kalbag
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San Francisco
CA 94109

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