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The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CC ~~PT~~ 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission

The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. I support Bellsouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

Businessmen, especially we small businessmen, spend too much time dealing with communications issues that could be simplified if we had the freedom to select one provider for all of our services. I would like to have more choices *and* I would also like to consolidate my local and long-distance telephone service with one company, whichever company I choose.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service and Internet service and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which change frequently. Although there are good choices in some, but not all, market segments, I would like the freedom to choose a single provider. It would streamline our operations, reduce administrative overhead, and give me more leverage as a customer if I could have a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs.

BellSouth is the major local service provider in this area and has been a good partner to this community. As both a residential and business customer my experiences with them have been positive and our working relationship is a healthy one.

It is time for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers, as they are now having to compete for our business local service. As this happens, the long-distance providers will quickly enter the local service market and full competition in every segment of the telecommunications industry will come to our community. As consumers, we will then have more options in providers, products and services, and prices will drop. We will also have the freedom to select one provider and consolidate services, which will certainly save our businesses time, effort and ultimately, money.

Please act now on BellSouth's application and approve it for the sake of business in Louisiana. Kindly include my letter of endorsement in the official record of BellSouth's filing.

Sincerely,

Lloyd H. Dennis, Jr.
President, Arise Development, Inc.

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