CC Docket No. 97-231

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5445 Government St
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Baton Rouge, La. 70806
January 2, 1998

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a family member of a BellSouth employee, I am well aware of the telephone company's request to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I also understand that Congress developed certain requirements local telephone companies must meet before they are allowed to do so, and I believe from everything I have read in the newspaper and heard from people who work in the industry that BellSouth has met these requirements. It seems only fair to let them enter the market without further delay.

As a consumer, I believe I will benefit if BellSouth is allowed to compete for my long-distance service. I don't

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make a lot of long-distance calls and I read if BellSouth is allowed to provide long-distance service, it will lower my rates by 5 percent — no matter how many or how few long distance calls I make. That's real savings I can count on.

Futhermore, it makes sense to me that when BellSouth becomes a full service provider -- offering both local and long distance service that long distance companies will want to do the same. That will give consumers even more choices and will enable them to shop around for the best local and long-distance service prices or pick one company to handle all their needs.

Finally, BellSouth is a good company to its employees, its customers and the community. It generates high-paying, quality employment for thousands of Louisiana citizens, it provides top notch service to millions of customers and it is a good corporate citizen, participating in numerous charitable endeavors

I urge you, Chairman Kennard, to approve BellSouth's request and let them compete in the long-distance market. Nothing but good will come of it.

Sincerely

Everden G. Williams

cc:
Harold Furchtgott-Roth
FCC Commissioner
Michael Powell
FCC Commissioner
Gloria Tristani
FCC Commissioner
Susan Ness
FCC Commissioner