DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

JAN 22 1998

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 4, 1997, the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network filed a Petition for Further Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available services to the public.

The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers even if long distance carriers do not file with the FCC. This far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is only available to a carrier's existing customers and therefore is unavailable to new customers who are comparison shopping and trying to decide between carriers and services. Second, the advertising and promotional materials provided by carriers are rarely detailed enough to enable a customer to make service-to-service and carrier-to-carrier comparisons. Moreover, these materials certainly will not be specific enough to allow consumers to detect--let alone support--a claim of carrier misconduct at the FCC. In short, the information available publicly without a specific Commission requirement will fall far short to meeting consumers' need.

Consumers traditionally have served as the FCC's watchdogs over certain practices of the long distance industry. For example, the Communications Act prohibits carriers from charging consumers in rural and other high- cost areas higher rates than those charged to consumers in urban and other lower-cost areas. Absent the public availability of pricing information, however, consumers will be hard pressed to detect such impermissible price discrimination in the first instance. Moreover, even if consumers are able to determine that a violation has occurred, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to adequately support their complaints to the FCC.

Consumers of long distance services, both residential and small business, rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services they need. **As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings.** Thousand of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans that they are interested in, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

I thus fully supports the Petition and urges the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Sincerely,

Lilia Rothstein

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1 2 2 1998

January 14, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

I was recently viewed a letter of petition that was sent to the FCC regarding the decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information to the public through tariffs or public available sources. I support a petition that has been sent to you from the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition.

It is already hard enough to figure out the commercials that are advertised on TV, as often they are misleading. The Dime a Minute deal did not really tell me that I must make calls to other states after a certain time. Most of my relatives are on the East Coast and calling them that late, can only occur when they are in bed. I found out the true meaning of the times and cost, by doing some research. I called Sprint, but each time I got a different answer to the times I could make calls. I asked if they could send me some information, and they said they had nothing to send. Without public disclosure I would not have been able to find out about the way the plan was suppose to be.

I rely on this information to make an informed decision, when you take this away, I will be left to make numerous phone calls to find out about the plans.

I fully support the above mentioned Petition and am a consumer and business owner who is grateful for public disclosure of Telecom rates, as this has helped me in my Telecom choice and understanding what I am being charged for.

Thank You,

Dennis Coyne
Shaye Diveley-Coyne
Scatters Coyne
6 Margarita Terrace
Novato, CA 94947

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January 14, 1998

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JAN 22 1998
FCC Mail Room

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
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I rely on this information to make an informed decision, when you take this away, I will be left to make numerous phone calls to find out about the plans.

I fully support the above mentioned Petition and am a consumer and business owner who is grateful for public disclosure of Telecom rates, as this has helped me in my Telecom choice and understanding what I am being charged for.

Thank You,

Vivek Gutheti
917 Vernal Avenue South
Mill Valley, Ca 94941

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JAN 22 1998
FCC

January 14, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
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Dear Ms. Salas:

I recently viewed a letter of petition that was sent to the FCC regarding the decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information to the public through tariffs or public available sources. I support a petition that has been sent to you from the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition.

I am one of many consumers who tracks my expenses and I have called my long distance and local phone company on numerous occassions, questioning their charges. On several occassions (when I had changed long distance carrier or signed up for a new calling plan), the carriers charges were incorrect and I was credited the difference. I would hate to have to rely on advertising alone to find out the intended rates for my phone service. Public disclosure of phone company's rates, in an easily accessible format is a must.

I rely on this information to make an informed decision, when you take this away, I will be left to make numerous phone calls to find out about the plans.

I fully support the above mentioned Petition and am a consumer and business owner who is grateful for public disclosure of Telecom rates, as this has helped me in my Telecom choice and understanding what I am being charged for.

Thank You,

Rosemary Hugh
Eric Hiss
2111 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

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JAN 22 1998
FCC

January 14, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

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I recently viewed a letter of petition that was sent to the FCC regarding the decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information to the public through tariffs or public available sources. I support a petition that has been sent to you from the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition.

I am one of many consumers who tracks my expenses and I have called my long distance and local phone company on numerous occassions, questioning their charges. On several occassions (when I had changed long distance carrier or signed up for a new calling plan), the carriers charges were incorrect and I was credited the difference. I would hate to have to rely on advertising alone to find out the intended rates for my phone service. Public disclosure of phone company's rates, in an easily accessible format is a must.

I rely on this information to make an informed decision, when you take this away, I will be left to make numerous phone calls to find out about the plans.

I fully support the above mentioned Petition and am a consumer and business owner who is grateful for public disclosure of Telecom rates, as this has helped me in my Telecom choice and understanding what I am being charged for.

Thank You,

Zoe Cohen

Zoe Cohen
Oakland, CA

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January 13, 1998

RECEIVED
JAN 22 1998
FCC

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to support the Petition for Further Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available services to the public filed by the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network on December 4, 1997.

I am a residential consumer of long distance services. I am often called on by long distance service providers to switch to their service. Using tariffed information, I came to learn that I was being charged 50% more by my new long distance provider over my previous. I immediately switched back to the more affordable.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains. If I hadn't had access to this information, I would have continued to be overcharged. Realistically, the only way I could continue to ensure that I am receiving a competitive price is to switch carriers, make some identical calls, and wait a month until the bill arrives. With any other service or item I purchase, I simply have to call a competitor and receive pricing information.

I rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services I need. As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousand of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If I am to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, I must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that I have access to the plans that I am interested in or that may be most economical, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny me access to this important information.

Consumers traditionally have served as the FCC's watchdogs over certain practices of the long distance industry. For example, the Communications Act prohibits carriers from charging consumers in rural and other high- cost areas higher rates than those charged to consumers in urban and other lower-cost areas. Absent the public availability of pricing information, however, consumers will be hard pressed to detect such impermissible price discrimination in the first instance. Moreover, even if consumers are able to determine that a violation has occurred, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to adequately support their complaints to the FCC.

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The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers. The is far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is only available to a carrier's existing customers and therefore is unavailable to new customers who are comparison shopping and trying to decide between carriers and services. Second, the advertising and promotional materials provided by carriers are rarely detailed enough to enable a customer to make service-to-service and carrier-to-carrier comparisons. Moreover, these materials certainly will not be specific enough to allow consumers to detect--let alone support--a claim of carrier misconduct at the FCC. In short, the information available publicly without a specific Commission requirement will fall far short to meeting consumers' need.

I thus fully support the Petition and urges the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Very truly yours,

Cheryl Johnson
730 Leavenworth St. Apt. 4
San Francisco, CA 94109

January 14, 1998

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JAN 22 1998
FCC MAIL ROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 4, 1997, the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network filed a Petition for further reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available services to the public. I write to support the Petition.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains.

Consumers of long distance services, both residential and small business, rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services they need. As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousand of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans that they are interested in, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

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The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers. This is far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is only available to a carrier's existing customers and therefore is unavailable to new customers who are comparison shopping and trying to decide between carriers and services. Second, the advertising and promotional materials provided by carriers are rarely detailed enough to enable a customer to make service-to-service and carrier-to-carrier

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comparisons. Moreover, these materials certainly will not be specific enough to allow consumers to detect--let alone support--a claim of carrier misconduct at the FCC. In short, the information available publicly without a specific Commission requirement will fall far short to meeting consumers' need.

I thus fully supports the Petition and urges the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Very truly yours,

Hung Q. Tu
156 Duboce #4
San Francisco, CA
94103

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JAN 22 1998

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January 19, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace; Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 4, 1997, the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network filed a Petition for Further Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available services to the public. James Andrews Consulting writes to support the Petition.

James Andrews Consulting is a small firm which provides psychological consulting services to a variety of small to medium size businesses, as well as to several educational institutions. Our organization requires publicly available pricing information to determine which service is best suited to our specific needs presently, as well as our specific needs in the future. Without publicly available information of this nature, our firm will be unable to determine which service will serve our long term needs.

The FCC suggests that the information provided in the billing process, and the current marketing practices of non-dominant carriers will prove sufficient for the needs of long distance customers. This may not hold true. Billing information is available only to current customers of a particular long distance provider, and therefore unavailable to those seeking to determine if there are perhaps better options available through another carrier. Secondly, the advertising and promotional material released by these carriers are vague at best. Rarely is there information sufficient in these materials to make an educated decision regarding which long distance service is appropriate for our needs, or to make any meaningful comparisons of the innumerable calling plans and promotions that are available in today's marketplace.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains.

James Andrews Consulting thus fully supports the Petition and urges the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Very truly yours,

James Andrews
James Andrews Consulting

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The State of South Carolina
Department of Consumer Affairs

2801 DEVINE STREET
P.O. BOX 5757
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29250-5757
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Philip S. Porter
Administrator
and
Consumer Advocate

Commissioners
Lonnie Randolph, Jr.
Chairman
Columbia
Barbara B. League
Vice Chairman
Greenville
Jim Miles
Secretary of State
Columbia
Lehman A. Moseley, Jr.
Greenville
DeAnna S. Trout
Moncks Corner
Lillian C. Bloom
Greenville
Ron G. Skipper
Hartsville
William P. Flack
Anderson
Gregory J. English
Simpsonville

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JAN 22 1998

January 20, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace; Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 4, 1997, the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network filed a Petition for Further Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available services to the public. As the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina, I am writing in support of the Petition.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Consumers, however, still need publicly available information regarding long distance services.

Both residential and small business consumers of long distance services rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services they need. As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousands of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans.

The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans in which they are interested, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

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TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 803)
ADMINISTRATION 734-9458
ACCOUNTING 734-9459

PUBLIC INFORMATION 734-9462
E-mail: scdca@infoave.net

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS 734-9452
WATS 1-800-922-1594
VOICE/TT - 1-800-676-3777

INVESTIGATORS 734-9461
ENFORCEMENT 734-9460

CONSUMER ADVOCACY 734-9464
FAX: 734-9365

Consumers traditionally have served as the FCC's watchdogs over certain practices of the long distance industry. For example, the Communications Act prohibits carriers from charging consumers in rural and other high-cost areas higher rates than those charged to consumers in urban and other lower-cost areas. Absent the public availability of pricing information, however, it will be difficult for consumers to detect such impermissible price discrimination in the first instance. Moreover, even if consumers are able to determine that a violation has occurred, it will be almost impossible to adequately support their complaints to the FCC.

The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers. This is far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is only available to a carrier's existing customers and therefore is unavailable to new customers who are comparison shopping and trying to decide between carriers and services. Second, the advertising and promotional materials provided by carriers are rarely detailed enough to enable a customer to make service-to-service and carrier-to-carrier comparisons. Moreover, these materials certainly will not be specific enough to allow consumers to detect, much less support, a claim of carrier misconduct at the FCC. In short, the information made publicly available without a specific Commission requirement will fall far short to meeting consumers' need.

Because of the above reasons, I fully support the Petition and urge the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Porter
Consumer Advocate

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JAN 22 1998
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January 15, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace; Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 4, 1997, the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and The Utility Reform Network filed a Petition for Further Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to eliminate the requirement for long distance carriers to provide pricing and service information regarding widely available telecommunication services to the public. I support this Petition.

Being a consumer of telecommunications products and services I find it difficult to make an informed decision as to which carrier I should choose. I found the Salestar Web Pricer helpful and informative in choosing my long distance carrier. Since this information is gathered from documents obtained because of the public disclosure requirements, without such information available services like this would disappear.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the FCC Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the FCC Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains.

As a consumer of long distance services, I rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services I use. The FCC has recognized already in its October 1996 order, that a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousands of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans that they are interested in, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

Traditionally consumers have served as the FCC's watchdogs over certain practices of the long distance industry. For example, the Communications Act prohibits carriers from charging consumers in rural and other high-cost areas higher rates than those charged to consumers in urban and other lower-cost areas. Without publicly available pricing information, I along with other consumers will be hard pressed to detect such impermissible price discrimination. Moreover, even if consumers are able to determine that a violation has occurred, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to adequately support their complaints to the FCC.

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The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers. I believe that this statement is far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is only available to a carrier's existing customers and therefore is unavailable to new customers who are comparison shopping and trying to decide between carriers and services. Second, the advertising and promotional materials provided by carriers are not detailed enough to enable a customer to make service-to-service and carrier-to-carrier comparisons. Moreover, these materials certainly will not be specific enough to allow consumers to detect--let alone support--a claim of carrier misconduct at the FCC. In short, the information available publicly without a specific Commission requirement will fall far short in meeting consumers' needs.

I support the Petition for Further Reconsideration filed by the Telecommunications Management Information Systems Coalition and urge the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Thank You,

Miles Senzaki, College Student
576-47th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94121

JAN 22 1998

January 8, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

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Being a consumer of telecommunications products & services I find it difficult to make an informed decision on which carrier I should choose. I found the Salestar Web Pricer helpful and informative in choosing my long distance carrier . Without public disclosure services like this would disappear.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains.

Consumers of long distance services, both residential and small business, rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services they need. As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousand of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans that they are interested in, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

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I fully support the Petition and urge the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Thank You,

Brel Elliott
3815 Harrison St. #104
Oakland, Ca. 94611

JAN 22 1998
FCC MAIL ROOM

January 14, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Ms. Salas:

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Being a consumer of telecommunications products & services I find it difficult to make an informed decision on which carrier I should choose. I found the Salestar Web Pricer helpful and informative in choosing my long distance carrier. Without public disclosure services like this would disappear.

In October 1996, the FCC adopted rules that prohibit long distance carriers from filing their tariffs for domestic long distance service with the FCC. At the same time, the Commission noted that consumers continue to need information about the rates, terms and conditions of long distance service. As a result, the FCC required carriers to make such information available to the public. In August 1997, the Commission inexplicably changed its position and eliminated the public disclosure requirement for mass market services even though no party requested such a change. Despite the FCC's elimination of the information disclosure requirement, a strong need for publicly available information regarding long distance services remains.

As a consumer of long distance services, I rely on publicly available pricing information in order to make informed decisions about the telecommunications services I need. As even the FCC recognized in its October 1996 order, a public disclosure requirement promotes the public interest by making it easier for consumers to compare service offerings. Thousand of long distance calling plans and services are now available to the public. If consumers are to be able to make any meaningful distinctions between these plans, they must have access to detailed and accurate information regarding the plans. The only way to ensure that consumers have access to the plans that they are interested in, as opposed to the particular plan that a carrier happens to be promoting at a particular time, is through an FCC-mandated public disclosure requirement. The FCC should not deny consumers access to this important information.

Consumers traditionally have served as the FCC's watchdogs over certain practices of the long distance industry. For example, the Communications Act prohibits carriers from charging consumers in rural and other high- cost areas higher rates than those charged to consumers in urban and other lower-cost areas. Absent the public availability of pricing information, however, consumers will be hard pressed to detect such impermissible price discrimination in the first instance. Moreover, even if consumers are able to determine that a violation has occurred, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to adequately support their complaints to the FCC.

The Commission suggests that billing and other advertising and promotional materials will be available to serve the informational needs of consumers. The is far from true. First, billing information, by definition, is

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I fully support the Petition and urge the Commission to promptly reinstate the public information disclosure requirement for widely available services. Only in this way can the Commission ensure that consumers have access to information crucial to both consumer choice and the consumer complaint process.

Thank You,

Theresa O'Connell

Theresa O'Connell
Bixby Hall Rm 513
625 Reagan Hall Circle
Davis, Ca 95616

JAN 27 1998
FCC

January 8, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.- Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace;
Implementation of Section 254 (g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended: CC Docket No. 96-61

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Thank You,

Thomas J. O'Connell

Thomas J. O'Connell
1723 Shellwood Drive
Concord, CA 94521

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JAN 22 1998
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January 14, 1998

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Buffi Szeles
1332-10th Ave., #102
San Francisco CA 94122

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Allyn Smith

4725 North Pasadena Ln. #A8
Spokane, WA
99212

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