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MCI Communications Corporation

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
202 887 2048

Leonard S. Sawicki
Director
FCC Affairs

JAN 27 1998

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DUKE-14950-PT ORIGINAL

EX PARTE

January 27, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket 97-211: WorldCom / MCI Merger

Dear Ms. Salas:

The attached letter was delivered to the FCC yesterday evening. Please add it to the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard S. Sawicki".
Leonard S. Sawicki

Attachment

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JAN 27 1998

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

January 26, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Today, WorldCom and MCI file their joint reply to comments concerning our merger. As those comments and our earlier submissions demonstrate, the MCI WorldCom merger is definitely in the public interest.

On one issue, however, we want to add our personal voices. Some have questioned MCI WorldCom's residential strategy.

MCI WorldCom intends to be the leading local service competitor for both residential and business customers of all sizes across the country. Indeed, local market entry is a driving force behind our merger.

Our investment has -- and will -- follow that intent. Each company has already invested billions of dollars to enter local telephone markets. Simple business logic explains why. MCI WorldCom will have an established base of residential and business customers, the marketing and product-development expertise to reach those customers, and the local facilities that will be used most efficiently by carrying residential night and weekend traffic along with business traffic.

But investment will flow and intent can be fulfilled only where real business opportunities exist. Thus far, achieving the goal of local competition has proven extremely painstaking and difficult because of delay, litigation and the obstructionist tactics of incumbents. Early approval of the MCI WorldCom merger -- and careful and vigilant enforcement of the Telecommunications Act -- are

vital steps to bringing competitive choice in local phone service to residential and business customers.

Sincerely,



Bernard J. Ebbers
President and CEO
WorldCom, Inc.



Bert C. Roberts, Jr.
Chairman
MCI Communications Corporation

cc: Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani