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SENATE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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JAN 28 1998



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

COMMITTEES:

- Education - Vice Chairman
- Budget
- Finance
- Local and Municipal Affairs
- Senate and Governmental Affairs
- Legislative Budgetary Control Council
- Capital Outlay

State Senator  
District 3  
Parish of Orleans  
4948 Chef Menteur Hwy.  
Room 318  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
(504) 942-8198  
Fax: (504) 942-8363  
Mary Smothers - Legislative Asst.

DENNIS R. BAGNERIS, SR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

December 2, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dec 9 5 08 PM '97

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

You and your colleagues will soon make an extremely important decision that could result in significant benefits and choices for the citizens of Louisiana. I want you to know my feelings on the matter. I believe it is in the best interest of my constituents and the citizens throughout the State of Louisiana to allow BellSouth to enter and provide long distance service in Louisiana.

My support is based on my belief that competition leads to lower prices for services, more choices for the consumer and increased economic development throughout Louisiana. These are some of the key benefits Congress promised citizens when the Telecommunications ACT was passed and these are the benefits believe my constituents deserve.

I am confident that when BellSouth begins serving the long-distance market the long-distance companies will enter the local residential market to compete for customers. Competition fosters introduction of new products and service packages that will enable customers to choose one provider for all their telecommunication needs.

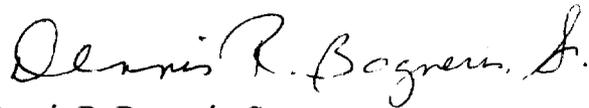
As more and more companies compete for customers they will reduce prices and develop attractive new products to increase market share. These providers will probably build their own telecommunications networks, bringing jobs and financial investment to our state. Ultimately, state-of-the-art telecommunications technology will entice new businesses to locate in Louisiana.

021

The economic development potential is significant for a state that continues to expand its economic base from decades of oil dependency. However, the benefits for business and individuals are significant.

I believe that our Louisiana Public Service Commissioners acted extremely wisely on behalf of their constituents when they endorsed BellSouth's request to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I urge you to advocate approval of this request and to open the door to full competition in the telecommunications market in Louisiana. I would also like for my letter of support to be entered into the official record of the BellSouth filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Bagneris, Sr.".

Dennis R. Bagneris, Sr.  
Senate President ProTem

cc: Edgar Poree

drb,sr:mpw

# FNBB

**First National Banker's Bank**

FOR KEY FILE COPY ORIGINAL TRANSMISSIONS

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December 4, 1997

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

cc Docket No. 97-231

Dec 9 5 07 PM '97

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman - FCC  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I understand you have before you an application from BellSouth to provide long distance service in the State of Louisiana. I also understand that a key determining factor in your decision will be whether or not BellSouth's request is in the public's best interest. I am writing to you today to express my opinion on this important matter, for I believe full-fledged competition in the telecommunications industry will benefit the citizens and businesses of this state.

As president of a local bank in our state's capital, I am in constant contact with a wide range of businesspersons from small business owners to executives of large companies. Despite their varying financial needs, these local businesspersons have several concerns in common: reducing costs, improving service to their customers and enhancing the local business climate.

I firmly believe that allowing BellSouth to provide competitive long distance telephone service in this state will encourage long distance companies and other carriers to enter the local telephone service market on a widescale basis. The resulting competition for both local and long distance telephone services will have a positive impact in each of these key areas.

First of all, BellSouth has committed it will undercut AT&T's long distance per minute rates by five percent. That is tremendous savings for small businesses who do not qualify for special discounts because they do not place a high volume of long distance calls. Secondly, competition will encourage the development of new and difference services so competitors can distinguish themselves from one another. These innovative products will help businesses improve the service they provide to their customers. Finally, as competing companies upgrade their communications networks, their investment in the telecommunications infrastructure will attract new business and industry to this area, sparking economic development efforts and creating new opportunities for our citizens.

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**FNBB**

First National Bankers Bank

Page 2

Letter to Chairman Kennard  
December 4, 1997

Chairman Kennard, I strongly urge you to find BellSouth's request to be in the public's best interest and to approve their application to be a long distance provider in the State of Louisiana without delay.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Quinlan, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

JFQ,Jr.:lh

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JAN 21 1 34 PM '98

# The Council City of New Orleans

TROY "C" CARTER  
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT C

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W70  
1300 PERDIDO STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112  
(504) 565-6315

January 14, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

You and your colleagues will make an extremely important decision that could benefit the citizens of New Orleans in having a choice as to who provides their telecommunications needs. Granting approval of Bell South's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana will be a significant step in fulfilling the mandate of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I am in support of Bell South's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. I believe that competition can lead to lower prices for services, greater choices for customers, and potential economic development and investments in our city, as well as other communities throughout our state. These are benefits Congress promised its citizens when the Telecommunications Act was passed. I believe my constituents in New Orleans deserve these benefits.

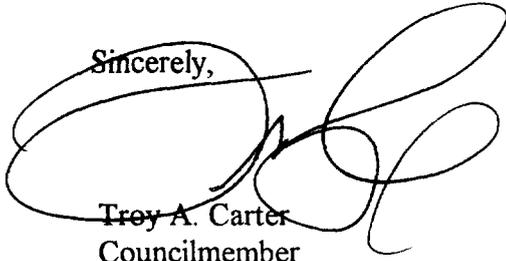
When more and more companies compete for customers, ultimately consumers benefit from lower prices and the development of more attractive products. Some companies may decide to build their own telecommunication networks, bringing much needed jobs and financial investments to our great city of New Orleans. Ultimately, the state-of-the-art telecommunications technology will entice new businesses to locate and invest in Louisiana.

I believe that our Louisiana Public Service Commissioners acted wisely on behalf of our constituents when they endorsed Bell South's request to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. I urge you to grant approval of Bell South's request to enter the long distance market in Louisiana, so that full competition in the telecommunications marketplace will be realized.

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(Carter/2)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy A. Carter', written over the printed name below.

Troy A. Carter  
Councilmember  
District C

cc: Mr. Edgar Poree, Bell South, Corporate and External Affairs

# Xavier University Preparatory School

United States Department of Education Exemplary Schools 1987-1991  
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January 15, 1998

JAN 28 1998

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

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 24 PM '98

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a retired BellSouth employee, I keep informed about matters that are important to my company and to the telecommunications industry in general. In particular, I have been extremely interested in the implementation of the Telecommunication Act, and frankly I am disappointed that more progress has not been made. I would like to take this opportunity to express not only my opinion but also the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees. In fact, you will likely receive numerous copies of this same letter from my former co-workers.

Chairman Kennard, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to fully deregulate the telecommunications industry, allowing all telecommunications companies an opportunity to enter segments of the market formerly closed to them. All Congress required the local companies such as BellSouth to do was to open their networks to their competitors and to ensure that their entry into the long-distance market was in the public's best interest.

I believe BellSouth has done exactly what it was requested to do, not only by Congress but also by our state Public Service Commission. My company has painstakingly met each and every one of the 14 points on the federal checklist and has invested millions of dollars making sure competitors can connect to BellSouth's operational support systems.

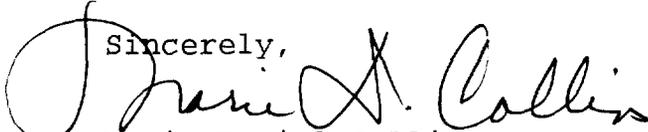
Furthermore, BellSouth has overwhelmingly proven that its entry into long distance is in the public interest. Real competition will lower prices, increase the number of choices consumers have among services and service providers and will enable customers to once again select one company to handle all their communications needs. In today's fast-paced world, that kind of convenience is a welcome change.

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Finally, if BellSouth is allowed to compete in the long-distance market, that will encourage the long-distance companies to compete in the local market for home telephone service. Until then the three large long-distance carriers will continue to drag their feet in the residential market while they selectively seek to serve large companies in major metropolitan areas. This kind of cherry-picking harms the average customer and threatens universal service.

I and my fellow retired BellSouth employees strongly urge you to approve BellSouth's long-distance application in Louisiana and let BellSouth spark real competition in this state.

Sincerely,



Marie Daniel Collins



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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 34 PM '98

January 15, 1998

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the Vice President of Economic Development for the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, I enthusiastically support any opportunities to spark our local economic development efforts. It is about one such opportunity that I am writing you today.

I understand BellSouth has filed an application with the FCC to provide long distance service in Louisiana. Everything I have heard and read about the deregulation of the telecommunications industry indicates to me that the time is right to allow the local companies such as BellSouth into the long distance market.

The Telecommunications Act was supposed to spark competition and increase customer choices. Instead, during these past two years we have seen the seven Baby Bells merge into five, and the two largest long distance companies request permission to merge with other companies. These consolidations are reducing our choices, not increasing them. I believe the only way the average consumer will see the benefits of real competition is if you let the regional companies compete in the long distance market.

In addition to giving customers a real choice in long distance service, BellSouth's entry should also encourage their competitors to provide local telephone service. As competition heats up, prices will go down, making Louisiana an attractive place to do business. And as companies expand or relocate to Louisiana, jobs will be created. These economic benefits - estimated by



SHREVEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
400 EDWARDS ST. • P.O. BOX 20074 • SHREVEPORT, LA 71120-0074  
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January 15, 1998  
Chairman Kennard  
Page 2

national experts to be over \$900 million in 10 years - are too important to this state to let them slip away.

As an economic developer and as a businessman, I strongly encourage you and the rest of the Commission to approve BellSouth's request without delay and to let BellSouth bring the benefits of competition to Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Purgerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Purgerson, CED  
Vice President Economic Development

JP/Val

cc: Larry Ramsey  
BellSouth

T. HALLER JACKSON III  
LOUISIANA TOWER  
401 EDWARDS STREET, SUITE 905  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101-3146

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 9, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

In the 1983-84 time frame, Judge Green made a decision that has drastically impacted the telecommunications industry in the United States. Prior to that time, "Ma Bell" had a monopoly on telephone service in the United States, and although things seemed to be operating fairly well, a strong sentiment flowed from Judge Green's ruling that the economy in the United States was based on the free market system and therefore we needed competition to increase innovations, open options for customers and hold down costs.

Fast forwarding to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress has continued the theme set forth by Judge Green that competition in the telecommunications industry is not only appropriate, but necessary. Therefore, when companies meet the guidelines of the Act, then the FCC should grant approval to operate as long-distance carriers.

BellSouth has satisfied the requirements of the Act, and its proposal will add a competitive party to the long-distance business. The American public is entitled to competition, and approving BellSouth as a long-distance carrier will provide growth and opportunity in Louisiana, a state sorely in need of better opportunities for individuals and businesses.

It would appear that the only reluctance of the FCC to grant BellSouth approval is BellSouth's size. That does not appear to me to be an overpowering issue considering the size of AT&T, MCI, Sprint and other long-distance carriers. In addition to the size of the competing companies, they already have a competitive advantage since they have been long-distance carriers for years and BellSouth will have a tremendous outlay of capital and resources just to enter the playing field.

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In summary, I urge the FCC to approve BellSouth's application as a long-distance carrier. The approval will increase competition, spur economic development, provide jobs, promote innovations, and most importantly, serve the public interest. Thank you for considering my request, and I remain

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Haller Jackson III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

T. Haller Jackson III

THJIII:sjb

December 8, 1997

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As you evaluate BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana, you and your fellow commissioners will make a decision that will greatly impact the citizens and businesses of Lafayette and the Acadiana area of our state. As President and Chief Operating Officer of Stuller Settings, Inc. and the 1997-98 President of the United Way of Acadiana, I strongly urge you to approve BellSouth's request and allow us to have true competition in the telecommunications market.

The United Way serves many people on fixed incomes, and in our area, many of these folks live in rural Acadiana, outside Lafayette. Having access to the best possible communications services for the most reasonable price is crucial for them. To date, no long-distance carriers have entered the local communications market, probably because it is more expensive to serve rural customers and areas with a high concentration of small businesses like Acadiana

When BellSouth wins approval to compete for long-distance service, I expect to see the emergence of innovative products and services, lower prices, and the bundling of services that will finally allow all customers to select one provider for all their telecommunications needs. This last benefit alone will make a tremendous difference for customers in our community who find it confusing and burdensome to deal with multiple providers.

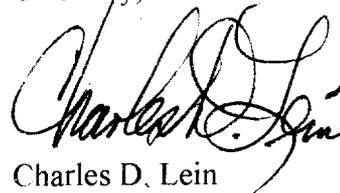
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The Honorable William Kennard  
Page 2

BellSouth, the major local service provider in our area, has a long history of commitment to our community as a key United Way supporter and a corporate citizen and partner in numerous civic activities. They have worked with business, industry, government, education, and others to meet the telecommunications needs of our community. BellSouth has opened their networks and negotiated interconnection and resale agreements with companies in the region and others that want to enter the market. They stand ready to compete, and our community welcomes their expansion into the long-distance market.

After careful study, I know you will agree with the Louisiana Public Service Commission: BellSouth's request is in the public interest and should be approved. I encourage you to act without delay to bring us true telecommunications competition before the end of the year.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Lein  
President/COO

CDL/drb



Office of the Mayor  
Joe Sampite  
City of Natchitoches

(318) 352-2772  
(318) 357-3829 Fax

STATE OF LOUISIANA

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JAN 24 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Post Office Box 37  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458-0037

**December 3, 1997**

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

**Dear Chairman Kennard:**

In passing the Telecommunications Act, Congress intended for all consumers to benefit from the full deregulation of the industry, not just large businesses and urban areas. It was intended to open every aspect of the industry in every part of the nation for every segment of the population. Two years after the fact, the citizens of Natchitoches still do not have true competition in every segment of the telecommunications industry.

In the absence of competition, companies have no incentives to innovate or reduce prices. Such is the situation in rural central Louisiana today. The way to force competition is to let BellSouth offer long-distance service in Louisiana.

When BellSouth begins competing in the long-distance market, other providers, including the large national ones, will enter the local service market in order to maintain their long-distance customers. These companies will need to build their own networks to serve the local market. They will develop new products and services to entice customers to use their services and will have the option of selecting one provider for all their communications needs.

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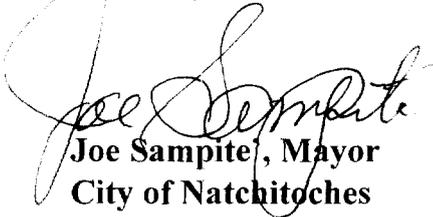
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**Honorable William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
Page 2**

**So far, these large companies have ignored us, but BellSouth has not. As our local provider, BellSouth is responsive to all their customers and helps our community. Expanding their services will benefit our citizens and will help them better serve our area.**

**Don't make us wait any longer for long-overdue benefits. Approve BellSouth's application now for all of Louisiana.**

**Sincerely,**



**Joe Sampite, Mayor  
City of Natchitoches**

**JS/mn**

JEFFERSON PARISH  
LOUISIANA

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JAN 28 1998

DAN CIVELLO

December 8 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, you have probably heard this question many times: What happened to the benefits promised by the Telecommunications Act?

As you well know, the problem is that real competition has not yet begun! Customers will never receive the choices and lower prices that many expected until someone takes the lead. BellSouth has now decided to move forward and has filed an application to offer long-distance service in Louisiana. However, BellSouth needs the FCC's approval and I think they should get it.

BellSouth's entry into the long distance arena will finally convince the long-distance carriers that they must release their stranglehold on that portion of the market because competition is inevitable. The long-distance carriers will want to enter the local market so they can offer customers one-stop-shopping for all their telecommunication needs

BellSouth's officials have proven that they have opened their market to competition. They have met, and sometimes exceeded, the requirements set forth in the Telecommunications Act. They have signed numerous interconnections and resale agreements with competitors.

I urge you to jump-start the competitive process by approving BellSouth's applications for long distance in Louisiana. It is the quickest way for consumers to begin to receive the benefits Congress intended.

Sincerely,



Dan E. Civello

No. of changes made  
(See 407)

CH

CLW & ASSOCIATES

CC Docket No. 97-231

December 9, 1997

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

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Louisiana Public Service Commission recently endorse BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. Your approval will open the way for true competition in our state and will give Louisiana's economy a big boost.

BellSouth is the major provider of local service for business and residential customers in the New Orleans area. Although the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service, despite the fact that the local service market is open to them, there are other providers who are entering the local service market in New Orleans.

As competition increases, consumers will benefit. Competition brings new players into the market, and jobs and economic investment accompany them. As new providers move into the area, they will build their own network facilities, and their employees will need housing. All of these are important to my industry.

I believe the allowing BellSouth to compete, for long-distance service will not only expand our product and service options but will also broaden our economic base. jobs in the telecommunications industry, a growth market for the future, typically are well-paid technical positions and are attractive options for the workforce of tomorrow.

Grant BellSouth's request this year so Louisiana can have open competition in the telecommunications industry without further delay. This will boost our efforts to attract other industries to our area.

Sincerely,



Erickiel Nash  
Partner

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 9, 1998

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

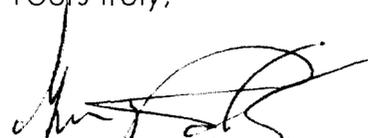
I am a BellSouth - Louisiana employee and I am writing to you to urge approval of the company's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. There has been a lot of attention around the company and in the media lately about the FCC's belief that BellSouth doesn't face enough competition to be allowed in the long distance business.

I would tell you that we have done everything required of us by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the FCC and Congress. And I firmly believe those actions have prompted numerous competitors to enter the market. We have been more than aggressive in opening our local network; how else would you explain the fact that 250 companies regionwide and 87 in Louisiana have signed interconnection and resale agreements with us? Additionally, the company spent \$500 million last year developing systems our competitors can use to interface with our ordering and billing systems. On August 13, 1997, these systems were publicly demonstrated to the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Baton Rouge and they were determined to work just fine.

Two companies, ACSI and KMC Telecommunications, are competing against us in Shreveport/Bossier City. Both companies are installing miles of fiber optic cable throughout the area and KMC will be turning up their own switching machine any day. BellSouth has lost close to 10,000 customers to these and other competitors in Louisiana, and the losses regionwide are growing at about 25 percent per month.

It seems to me that there is plenty of competition in the market, just like Congress intended. We have done everything required of us; I know -- I'm on the firing line every day. Again, I ask you to approve our application. It's the right thing to do in the name of competition and fair play.

Yours truly,

  
George T. Pokorski

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 15 4 18 PM '98

Gene Ramsey  
9006 Marlow Dr.  
Shreveport, LA 71118

January 9, 1998

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

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. The Louisiana Public Service Commission recently agreed that BellSouth met all the federal requirements to compete in the long-distance business. Now it is up to the FCC to move the industry forward by allowing true long-distance competition in Louisiana.

This competition will bring more investment to our state, the economic impact will total in the millions of dollars, and job opportunities will grow. This is important to me as a twenty-four year-old married male.

I believe BellSouth's entry into long distance will bring lower costs. I read in the local news that BellSouth would lower my rates by 5 percent without having to belong to a super calling plan. Lower costs is a benefit everyone will appreciate!

Finally, BellSouth is a good company and a good corporate citizen. The employees participate in many charitable activities in the communities where they live and work.

I ask you, Chairman Kennard, to approve BellSouth's request now, and let the competition begin.

Yours truly,

*Gene Ramsey*

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**PERCY A. SHARP, III**  
1055 Louisiana Avenue  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1 14 1 50 PM '98

January 6, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

It is my understanding that BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance service market in Louisiana is before your Commission for consideration.

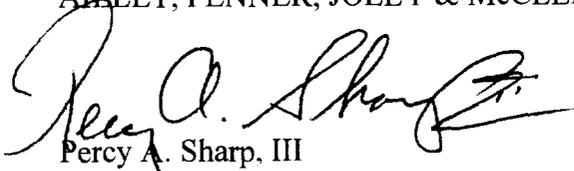
I urge you to approve BellSouth's request for the following reasons:

- Expanded services to existing local customers.
- Consolidation of communication services provides convenience of single service and single billing.
- Enhancement of competition.
- Potential economic benefits, ie. construction and jobs brought about by increased competition.

Your favorable consideration is requested.

Sincerely,

AILET, FENNER, JOLLY & McCLELLAND, INC.



Percy A. Sharp, III

PAS/jyh

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BARLOW AND HARDTNER L.C.

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JAN 28 1998

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MALCOLM S. MURCHISON\*\*  
KAY COWDEN MEDLIN  
JOSEPH L. SHEA, JR.\*\*  
DAVID R. TAGGART\*\*  
CLAIR F. WHITE\*\*  
STEPHEN E. RAMEY  
PHILIP E. DOWNER III  
MICHAEL B. DONALD\*\*  
JAY A. GREENLEAF\*\*  
GAIL BOWEN McCULLOCH  
ROBERT W. KYLE  
JONATHAN D. BAUGHMAN  
SARAH A. KIRKPATRICK  
DAVID A. BARLOW  
TIMOTHY W. WILHITE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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401 EDWARDS STREET  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101-3288  
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71161-0008

OF COUNSEL  
CECIL E. RAMEY, JR.  
PAULA H. THICKMAN  
RAY A. BARLOW (1931-1995)  
TELEPHONE (318) 227-1131  
TELECOPIER (318) 227-1141

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 6, 1998

\*BOARD CERTIFIED TAX LAW SPECIALIST AND  
BOARD CERTIFIED ESTATE PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST  
\*\*ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

RE: BellSouth Long-distance Service Application

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 paved the way for the regional Baby Bells to offer long-distance service after they opened their local monopolies to competition. To accomplish this, specific procedures and requirements were established. It follows, therefore, that when a regional Baby Bell meets the stated requirements, they should be granted approval to compete in the long-distance market, without delay. Such is the case now with BellSouth in Louisiana.

For the past two years, BellSouth has diligently prepared to enter the long-distance market. As required, they proved compliance with the 14-point checklist and convinced local commissioners that their application is in the best interest of the public. BellSouth has opened their network to local competition and demonstrated that their interfaces are operational. Resale and interconnection agreements have been signed with more than 200 companies regionwide, including nearly 100 companies specifically interested in doing business in Louisiana. The Louisiana Public Service Commission endorsed BellSouth's plan last August.

In short, BellSouth has completed the pre-established steps and met all specified criteria. The only remaining hurdle is gaining the approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

I understand that you have 90 days to rule on BellSouth's request. I urge you and your fellow commissioners to follow the lead of our state commissioners who best know the needs of their constituency and approve BellSouth's application.

Yours very truly,

Malcolm S. Murchison

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 14 1 50 PM '98

January 6, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to urge you to support BellSouth's request to enter the long distance service market in Louisiana.

BellSouth has been our major local service provider in Shreveport for many decades and has served our needs well. They have also been involved in and supportive of programs designed to stimulate the growth and development of businesses located in our community. They have been particularly helpful with several of our projects and programs.

I believe that BellSouth's request is in the best interest of Louisiana consumers and that their record of achievement attests to the quality of their products and services. I also believe that, when BellSouth is allowed to offer long-distance service, existing providers will be forced to enter the local service market in both rural and urban areas - areas BellSouth has successfully served for years. Only then will the true competition become a reality in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission endorsed BellSouth's plan and found it to be in the best interest of Louisiana consumers. BellSouth effectively proved their case to them, and I hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

Donna Curtis, Executive Director  
Shreveport Green

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CC Docket No. 97-231

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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January 6, 1998

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Our school system constantly struggles to manage the demands placed on it, and there is never enough money to accomplish all of our goals.

Fortunately, though BellSouth has come to our assistance and upgraded computer facilities in our public schools. Through the NetDay initiative, they supplied personnel and equipment to lay miles of cable to link our schools to the Internet. In addition, they offered training to key teachers and administrators to help them maximize time spent on the Internet. At long last, our students have entered the Information age.

With BellSouth's help, our students are experiencing some of the benefits of advanced technology, but we still have a way to go. However, with a corporate partner like BellSouth that is dedicated to the education of our youth, we will continue to expand the student's horizons.

BellSouth now deserves the chance to offer long-distance service, because, this, too, will benefit our students, not just at school but also at home as BellSouth offers convenient packaging and lower rates. On behalf of the future leaders of our state, I strongly encourage you to approve BellSouth's application immediately.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Adams  
Executive Director

~~XXXXXX Street, Suite 402~~  
P.O. Box 365, Shreveport, Louisiana 71162  
Telephone 318-424-0599  
Fax 318-424-0690

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am a longtime BellSouth employee with more than 27 years service. I am proud of my career and I am proud to be a part of this company. BellSouth has demonstrated that it's committed to serving not only its customers, but also the community. I believe it's in the public's interest for a company with such a track record to expand its services. That's why I urge you to approve BellSouth's application to get into the long-distance market.

Other companies have shown that they're only after the big customers and big profits. Residential users, especially those on fixed incomes or in rural areas, are not in competitors' marketing plans. But BellSouth has proven its commitment to providing universally affordable local telephone service to average customers. As an employee, I am proud of that tradition and will work to ensure that when BellSouth gets into the long-distance business, I will continue to provide customers with the quality service they've come to expect from BellSouth.

I am not only an employee, but also a telecommunications customer. As a consumer, I want the one-stop shopping I used to have before divestiture nearly 14 years ago. I would like to have the opportunity to get just one bill for my local and long-distance, cellular and Internet service. I would like to have another choice for our long-distance carrier. I would like to pocket the savings that competition promises to bring.

As a BellSouth employee, as a resident of Louisiana and as a consumer in a now-limited marketplace, I urge you to give BellSouth the chance it deserves to offer long distance to customers. I believe this company's goals are in the community's best interest. I've staked my career on it.

Sincerely,

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