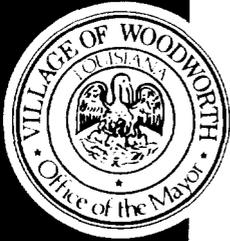


David C. Butler, II
Mayor

December 10, 1997

RECEIVED
JAN 1 1998
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

RECEIVED
JAN 1 1998
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN



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

CC Docket No. 97-231

RE: Telecommunications Act

Mr. Kennard:

The citizens of Woodworth want more choices in the telecommunications market, and the way to accomplish this is to open the market to true competition. Congress authorized this almost two years ago with passage of the Telecommunications Act, but we have not seen the results.

Now I understand that BellSouth has applied to the Federal Communications Commission for approval to compete for long-distance service in Louisiana. I am compelled to tell you why this is important to Woodworth and to urge you to grant their request without further delay.

BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market will increase available choices and will spark other benefits, as well. Competition will encourage other providers to come to our area and will foster the development of new products and services. Providers will begin bundling products to offer consumers the option of consolidating communication services with one provider. As companies compete for market share, prices will decrease and choices will increase.

So far, the national providers have been content to offer only long-distance services in Woodworth and have had no interest in serving the local market. However, this will change when BellSouth, our local service provider, is allowed to compete with them. BellSouth has served Woodworth well and wants to expand into long distance to better serve our citizens. We think they have earned that opportunity.

Give us the choices we deserve and that were promised by Congress. Approve BellSouth's application now so they can better serve our community.

Sincerely,

David C. Butler, II
Mayor, Village of Woodworth

No. of Copies rec'd 214
List ABOVE

DCBII/dag

"Home of Indian Creek Recreation Area"

Village
of
Woodworth

P.O. Box 228
Woodworth,
Louisiana
71485

Office:
318/442-1198

Fax:
318/487-6110



Kisatchie
National Forest



Parish of St. James



RECEIVED

P.O. Box 106
Convent, Louisiana 70723

JAN 28 1998 Phone: (504) 562-2260
Fax: (504) 562-2279

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dale J. Hymel, Jr.
President

December 11, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The residents of St. James Parish are eager for competition in the telecommunications market. They anticipated its arrival after passage of the Telecommunications Act, but it has not come. You can bring it to them now by approving BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market before the end of this year.

BellSouth serves the local communications market in our parish. Through the years, we have developed a positive working relationship with them as they have worked with government, education, business, and industry to meet the telecommunications needs of the parish. Now, they are poised to enter the long-distance market and expand services to their existing customers, and we believe the time is right for this move.

Allowing BellSouth to offer long-distance service will provide more choices for consumers and will finally deliver the option of selecting one provider for all telecommunications services. This will be a great benefit, especially to small business and residential customers who want the simplicity of consolidated services.

Please grant BellSouth's request to expand into the long-distance market and let us finally experience true competition in the communications industry.

Sincerely,

Dale J. Hymel, Jr.
Parish President

DJH:jrl

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

OH

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

RECEIVED

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.

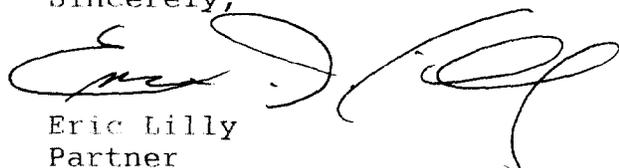
BellSouth is the major provider of local service for business and residential customers in the New Orleans area. Although the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service, despite the fact that the local service market is open to them, there are other providers who are entering the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



Eric Lilly
Partner

No. of Copies rec'd 01
List ABCDE

CHARLES F. WEBB

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

CC Docket No. 97-231

December 9, 1997

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

EX PARTE RECEIVED

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,



Ruth Neustadter
Office Manager

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

OH

CLW & ASSOCIATES

CC Docket No. 97-231

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 9, 1997

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

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Louisiana Public Service Commission recently endorsed 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.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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,



Germaine Walker
Accounting Clerk

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

OH



FRANCIS C. HEITMEIER
State Senator
District 7

SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
REPAIRED COPY FILED

CC Docket No. 97-231

3709 General DeGaulle Drive
New Orleans, LA 70114
(504) 361-6014

COMMITTEES
Retirement, Chairman
Commerce
Judiciary C

December 11, 1997

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering an application filed by BellSouth to provide long-distance service in the State of Louisiana. I personally believe their entry in the long-distance business would well serve the consumers of this state, and I wholeheartedly support their filing.

My constituents are anxiously awaiting the promises Congress made two years ago when the Telecommunications Act was passed including price reductions, increased choices among providers, and the convenience of dealing with just one company for all their communications services. However, these benefits have not been widespread because very few companies have entered new market segments. Furthermore, those who have are targeting large businesses and other profitable customers in densely populated metropolitan areas.

It is my opinion that BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market will change all that. A local company, BellSouth intends to serve all segments of the market throughout the state. I believe that once they begin competing in the long-disitance market, the long-distance carriers will want to provide local service just to keep their customers. Once competition is widespread, all telephone users will benefit.

Chairman Kennard, I strongly encourage you to approve BellSouth's request since their entry into long-distance will ignite full competition in every part of our state. Please vote "yes" to their application and let competition begin in Louisiana.

Sincerely,


Francis C. Heitmeier

FCH:gmw

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1
List ABOVE



BILL COURTNEY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

JAN 21 1 24 PM '98

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

January 12, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1998
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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 Telecommunications 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.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+1

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Courtney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____



PARISH OF ST. CHARLES

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

P.O. Box 302 • Hahnville, Louisiana 70057
(504) 783-5000 • (504) 466-1990 • FAX (504) 783-2067

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 10, 1997

CHRIS A. TREGRE
PARISH PRESIDENT

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Since the Telecommunications Act was passed almost two years ago, St. Charles Parish has eagerly anticipated the arrival of true competition in the communications industry. With your approval of BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana, the citizens of this state will finally have the opportunity to experience it.

With competition in the marketplace, choices and innovations increase and prices decrease. I believe this will be the case when Bell South offers long-distance service.

In addition, as Bell South moves into the long-distance market, other providers will decide to compete for local service. As they do, they will build their own networks which will create quality jobs for parish residents. With our well-respected school system and proximity to New Orleans, St. Charles Parish could also benefit from new jobs that would follow these providers to the River Region.

I strongly urge you to carefully evaluate BellSouth's case for entering the long-distance market in Louisiana and then approve it without hesitation. St. Charles Parish residents deserve the choices resulting from true competition.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Tregre
Parish President

CAT/dpl

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

021

12/09/97

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

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



From: Airline Motors Restaurant
221 East Airline Hwy.
Louisiana, LA. 70068

Sir:

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Businesses spend too much time dealing with communications issues that could be simplified if we were able to select one provider for all of our services. I would like to have more choices, and I would like to consolidate my local and long-distance service with one company, whichever company I choose.

I believe that allowing BellSouth to compete for long-distance service will expand out product and service options as well as broaden out economic base. Jobs in the telecommunications industry are typically well paid technical positions and are attractive options for the workforce of the future.

I urge you to grant BellSouth's request without further delay.

Richard L. Alford
Proprietor

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

041

DOCKET FILE DUPT'D ORIGINAL

12/09/97

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

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: Mary Jo Alford
1903 Homer St.
Metairie, LA 70005

CC Docket No. 97-231

Sir:

The Federal Communications Commission now has under review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to customers in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's application and urge prompt approval.

BellSouth has met all requirements established during passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. They demonstrated to the Louisiana Public Service Commission that their networks are open to competition, and have met the public interest standard as evidenced by the LPSC endorsement of BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market.

BellSouth is the major provider of local service in the New Orleans area. Although the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service, there are other facility based providers that are entering the local service market in New Orleans.

It is time for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers. When this happens, the long-distance providers will quickly enter the local service market, and true competition will become a reality..

I urge you to approve BellSouth's application without delay.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+1



STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COPIES OF THIS FILED

1015 Clothilde St.
Morgan City, Louisiana 70380
Telephone: (504) 380-2433
(800) 562-3204
Fax: (504) 384-9404

Agriculture
Natural Resources
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

D. A. "BUTCH" GAUTREUX
District 51

LOCKET # 151-231

December 9, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1998
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

My district in Louisiana desperately needs competition in the telecommunications industry, and I understand that the Federal Communications Commission can bring it to us before the end of 1997. I am asking you to move forward quickly and approve BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market this year.

After the Bell System was dismantled in 1984, 17 parishes in Louisiana were split by LATA boundaries. For the past 13 plus years, consumers in those areas have been unable to benefit fully from technological advances in communications services. They also are unable to participate in two local discount plans that were developed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission: the Education Discount Plan offers significant discounts to schools and libraries for high-speed data circuits, and the Local Optional Service Plan provides deeply discounted long-distance service rates for residential and business customers within the parish. Residents in these 17 parishes could realize significant savings annually if they could participate in these programs.

Our schools, teachers, and administrators in St. Mary Parish suffer from these LATA boundaries, as well. Communicating across them is costly as parents, teachers, and administrators discuss issues and offer counsel concerning student needs. Internet access services are also affected as connections to resources beyond the boundaries become long-distance calls. Cost factors and budget constraints severely hamper our student's ability to participate fully in the Information Age.

I believe that allowing BellSouth to enter the long-distance market will make these arbitrary LATA boundaries obsolete. Their disappearance will positively affect our businesses, residences, and educational institutions as access to information becomes more affordable.

BellSouth has opened the local market to competition, as required by the Telecommunications Act, and has received the endorsement of the Louisiana Public Service Commission. In its decision process last summer, our Commission deemed that BellSouth's proposal is in the best interest of the Louisiana consumers.

I understand that you have 90 days in which to act on this application. I challenge you to approve BellSouth's request before the end of this year.

Sincerely,


D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux
State Representative - District 51

DAG:lrn

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

021



DON HIGGINBOTHAM INS AGENCY INC.
Auto-Life-Health-Home and Business
4010 W. CONGRESS, #108
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506 PHONE (318) 981-4990

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 11, 1997

December 11, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I understand that BellSouth recently filed with the Federal Communications Commission for approval to compete in the long-distance market in Louisiana. As a former state representative and as a businessman, I heartily endorse this plan and urge you and your fellow commissioners to act without delay to grant this request.

A truly open market is one in which competition thrives in all aspects of the market. Innovation occurs, price competition causes a decrease in rates, and choices proliferate. The main beneficiaries are consumers who gain the freedom of selection.

Other beneficiaries are the communities around the state. As competition escalates, the economy will grow as new providers enter the market to compete. They will build facilities, create quality jobs, and hire employees in our communities.

The City of Lafayette and the State of Louisiana need the boost that will result from true competition in the telecommunications industry, and you have the ability to see that we receive it. Please approve BellSouth's application without further delay so we can begin to experience the benefits of an open market.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Higginbotham

No. of Copies rec'd 04
List ABCDE

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 11, 1997

EX PARTE ORAL HEARING
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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:

My husband and I are both longtime BellSouth employees whose combined service totals more than 50 years. We're proud of our careers because we're 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. We believe that it's in the public's interest for a company with such a track record to expand its services. That's why we 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 employees, we are proud of that tradition and will work to ensure that when BellSouth gets into the long-distance business, we will continue to provide customers with the quality service they've come to expect from BellSouth.

We are not only employees, but also telecommunications customers. As consumers, we want the one-stop shopping we used to have before divestiture nearly 14 years ago. We would like to have the opportunity to get just one bill for our local and long-distance, cellular and Internet service. We would like to have another choice for our long-distance carrier. We would like to pocket the savings that competition promises to bring.

As BellSouth employees, as residents of Louisiana and as consumers in a now-limited marketplace, we urge you to give BellSouth the chance it deserves to offer long distance to customers. We believe this company's goals are in the community's best interest. We've staked our careers on it.

Sincerely,

Darrell and Gayle Landry

Darrell and Gayle Landry
209 Nova Scotia Drive
Lafayette, LA 70507

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

041

George R. Smith, MD, MBA, F.A.C.S.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

XOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 11, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am writing to support the effort of BellSouth to enter the long-distance area of phone service. The company is the provider of local service to me and to countless other people in Acadiana. I have found them a pleasure with whom to deal and find their service is quite excellent. I also use BellSouth as provider of my cellular phone service through BellSouth Mobility. The service provided me is equally satisfactory.

What I do not like, however, is needing another carrier to provide my long-distance communications. I would much prefer to have **one carrier** provide all such services to me, both at home and at business. I would prefer that carrier to be BellSouth. This would simplify matters for me and, I feel, provide me with better and more responsive services.

I do not know why the Department of Justice sees fit to interfere here when BellSouth's application has ben approved by our State Public Service Commission. I wish Justice would "cease and desist!"

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

George R. Smith, MD
George R. Smith, MD

Chief of Surgery
Louisiana Health System
System Clinical Services
155 Hospital Drive
Suite 201
Lafayette, Louisiana
70503
(318) 289-7743
FAX(318) 289-7742

Office Phlebology
155 Hospital Drive
Suite 201
Lafayette, Louisiana
70503
(318) 234-7777
FAX(318) 237-3900

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+1



STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

713 Main Street
Pineville, Louisiana 71360
Telephone: (318) 487-0105
Fax: (318) 484-2322

December 11, 1997

RANDY E. WIGGINS
District 27

RECEIVED
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
Labor & Industrial Relations

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing on behalf my constituents to ask you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana today.

The national long-distance carriers do not want to offer local services in the Alexandria area because they are not interested in small business customers and residential customers who are spread out around an area. They prefer to seek large businesses concentrated in an urban area where profit margins are high.

BellSouth, on the other hand, serves my constituent well and now wants to expand into the long-distance market. We in Alexandria fully support this move because it will offer an opportunity for consumers to use a single provider for all services. Consolidating services will simplify installation, maintenance, and billing and free time for better use.

Furthermore, BellSouth has pledged to lower average long-distance rates by 5 percent statewide, resulting in significant savings for both small businesses and residential customers.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission found BellSouth's application to be in the best interest of the public and endorsed it. We agree with them, and urge you and your fellow Commissioners to also rule in BellSouth's favor.

I understand that you have 90 days in which to approve this application. I challenge you to render a favorable decision before the end of the year.

Very truly yours,

RW
Randy E. Wiggins

REW:bn

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

0+1

CONFIDENTIAL

FERROUILLET LAW FIRM

(A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION)
2640 BARRACKS STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70119
TELEPHONE (504) 827-0494
FAX NO. (504) 822-5424

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 9, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Louisiana Public Service Commission recently endorsed BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. Your approval will open the way for the 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 that 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,



Eric M. Ferrouillet

EMF/eac

No. of Copies rec'd
LAW/SCDE

041

Gail Barnes-McConduit

2132 Mirabeau Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
(504) 282-3410

Dec 2 2 39 PM '97

November 20, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish you great success in this new endeavor of leadership.

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.

Businesspersons, especially small businesses spend too much time dealing with communications issues that could be simplified if we were able 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.

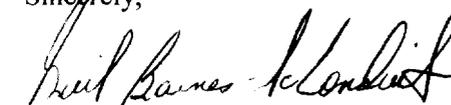
BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, Internet access, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which change frequently. Although there are good choices in some, but not all, market segments, I would like to have a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs.

BellSouth is the major local service provider and has been a good partner to our community. As a customer, my experiences with them have been positive. My company is also fortunate to have worked as a subcontractor on several projects, and our working relationship is a healthy one.

The time is now for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers. When this happens, the long-distance providers will expedite their entry into 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 of providers, products, and services, and prices will decrease. We will also have the chance to select, of our choice, one provider and consolidate services, which will save my business time, effort, and, ultimately, money.

We urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market so that I alone with all the other citizens of the state of Louisiana can truly have a choice. Kindly place my letter of support with the BellSouth official filing record.

Sincerely,


Gail Barnes-McConduit

CC-1

Dec 2 2 39 PM '97

Alvarez Chapital
2420 Oriole Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
(504) 282-3026

NOV 24 1997

NOV 24 1997

November 19, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your new position as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish success in this extremely important leadership capacity.

I am writing in support of BellSouth's recent filing for approval to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I strongly support their request and urge you to move quickly through the process and approve their application. Further, I request that my letter of support become part of the official record of their filing.

BellSouth has met all the requirements established during passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. During hearings before the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) last summer, BellSouth proved compliance with the 14-point checklist. They have opened their networks to their competitors by signing resale and interconnection agreements with more than 200 companies regionwide, including more than 70 companies that want to do business in Louisiana. They demonstrated to the LPSC that their networks are open to competition. BellSouth has also met the public interest standard as evidenced by gaining approval of the LPSC.

In our City, New Orleans, facilities-based providers are entering the local service market and serving both residence and business customers over their own networks. So far, however, the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service although this market is fully open to them.

BellSouth has done what it was supposed to do and acted in good faith and in accordance with the mandated requirements for gaining approval to enter the long-distance market. The time for developing requirements and erecting barriers to entry is behind us, its time for approval of BellSouth's application.

I understand that you have up to 90 days to rule on BellSouth's request. I encourage you to carefully evaluate and approve BellSouth's application before the end of 1997.

Sincerely,



Alvarez Chapital

NOV 24 1997 021



MIKE MICHOT
District 43

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN PART ONLINE FILED

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

3125 W. Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
Telephone: (318) 237-1181
Fax: (318) 237-1185

Commerce
Labor & Industrial Relations
Natural Resources

December 10, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

When true competition comes to the telecommunications market in Louisiana, the entire state will be positively affected. As the fourth largest city in the state, Lafayette will receive a significant portion of the resulting economic benefits.

Approving BellSouth's application to compete for long-distance service in Louisiana will force the national long-distance providers into local residential service, which they have avoided. These large companies have been reluctant to enter the local service market, and when they do, they selectively target business, not residential, customers. In effect, they are skimming off the higher-end, more profitable business and neglecting the less profitable, lower-end market. Permitting this practice to continue seriously jeopardizes universal service in the local markets.

When the national long-distance providers begin competing for local service, they will build their own facilities and bring in or hire new employees. In the short term, construction and engineering jobs will be created and, in the long term, technology positions will be available. These jobs mean quality employment options for our young people and may entice many of them to remain in the area.

Within the next 10 years, due to resulting economic development benefits, the Lafayette area could realize an economic impact of \$102 million and gain almost 550 new jobs, according to an economic development study recently conducted by the WEFA Group. This is great news for our economy.

We are ready for true competition to come to Louisiana, and I urge you to act now to approve BellSouth's request.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Michot
State Representative
District 43

MJM:mhb

No. of Copies rec'd 0x1
List ABCDE

CHARLES F. WEBB

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

CC Docket No. 97-231

December 9, 1997

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

RECEIVED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

JAN 28 1998

Dear Chairman Kennard:
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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.

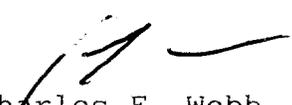
BellSouth is the major provider of local service for business and residential customers in the New Orleans area. Although the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service, despite the fact that the local service market is open to them, there are other providers who are entering the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


Charles F. Webb
Certified Public Accountant

CFW/rin

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

041

PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

PORT SULPHUR OFFICE

P.O. BOX 70 • PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083-0070

Phone 504-564-2743 • 504-523-4879

FAX (504) 564-3808

CARROLL A. PERLANDER
Superintendent

CARLTON M. LAFRANCE, SR., District 5
PAUL W. LEMAIRE, JR., District 6
HELEN E. BARROIS, District 7
BOBBY L. BENEFIELD, District 8
WILLIAM F. MERTZ, District 9

MEMBERS:

LISA S. CROSS, District 1
LAWRENCE J. ROUSSELLE, District 2
SHAWN M. REPEL, District 3
SHARON BRANAN ROE, District 4

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 11, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish you great success in this new endeavor of leadership.

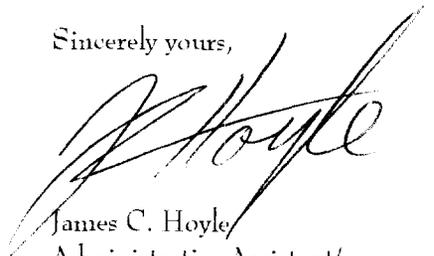
The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, Internet access, 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 to have a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs.

The time is now for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers. When this happens, the long-distance providers will expedite their entry into 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 of providers, products, and services, and prices will decrease. We will also have the chance to select, of our choice, one provider and consolidate services, which will save my business time, effort, and ultimately, money.

We urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market so that I alone with all the other citizens of the state of Louisiana can truly have a choice. Kindly place my letter of support with the BellSouth official filing record.

Sincerely yours,



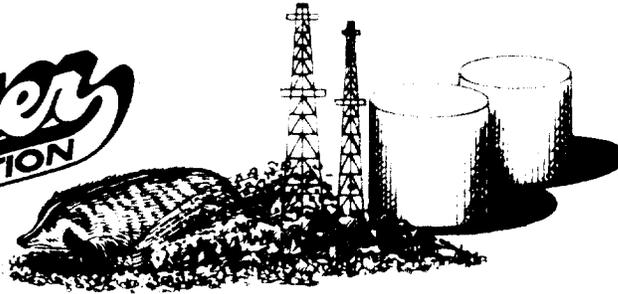
James C. Hoyle
Administrative Assistant/
Director of Secondary Education

JCH:rjv

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

021

1001 PINHOOK ROAD
P. O. DRAWER 52745
LAFAYETTE, LA. 70505
OFF: (318) 233-9200
FAX: (318) 233-5785



RECEIVED

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 8, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I am writing to ask the Federal Communications Commission to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in the State of Louisiana without delay.

Businesses in Louisiana have a difficult time finding a provider to meet all of their communications needs. As a result, they often have to use different service providers for local, long-distance, Internet access, and wireless services. With each provider, businesses must deal with different people or departments for installation, repairs, and billing issues -- a situation that quickly becomes cumbersome and complicated, at best. Just managing the relationships with several telecommunications companies consumes valuable management time and attention.

In many parts of Louisiana, we continue to see the three largest long-distance providers raise their prices even though their costs have decreased. Real competition won't allow this.

Companies operating in Louisiana as well as companies seeking to relocate here consider many factors in making future business decisions, including price and availability of telecommunications services. Competition in the telecommunications market will make our state a more attractive place for doing business and help us achieve our economic development goals.

Allowing BellSouth to enter the long-distance market will increase competition and result in better prices and more choices for consumers in Louisiana. In addition, new companies may relocate to the state to compete with BellSouth, bringing investment dollars and high-paying, technical jobs.

I understand that the Louisiana Public Service Commission painstakingly reviewed the BellSouth application this summer and endorsed it as being in the best interest of the public. I heartily agree with their finding and encourage you to grant BellSouth's request to provide long-distance service to Louisiana before year end.

Sincerely,

C. Paul Hilliard

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1
List ABCDE

cc: Mr. Robert D. Lowe

Bank One, Louisiana, NA
100 Texas Street
P.O. Box 21116
New Orleans, LA 70151-0001

Tel 318 226 2345

DOCKET FILED FOR ORIGINAL

BY PAITTE O'LEARY FILED

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BANK ONE

December 10, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

When I first heard about the Telecommunications Act nearly two years ago, I looked forward to the benefits that deregulation would bring. I was encouraged by the assurances of lower prices, more choices and packaged services. But today, I see little, if any change. Now, BellSouth has offered consumers hope again with its application to the Federal Communications Commission for long-distance relief. I see it as the only way to get the free-market system flowing in the telecommunications industry.

I'm disappointed by the pace of competition, not only for myself, but for the millions of average people whom members of Congress had in mind when they created the Telecommunications Act. I'm disappointed for those living on fixed incomes, who could have benefited the most from the expected price reductions.

I say let BellSouth start the momentum toward true competition. Our local phone company has already pledged to offer lower long-distance rates to the average consumer. Their proposed five-percent discount will undoubtedly be matched by other companies so telephone customers would see immediate impact. In addition, the long-distance carriers could finally be convinced to enter the local telephone business. Few companies would stand back and watch as a local service takes away a portion of their marketshare.

It is clear that, despite all good intentions, the Telecommunications Act thus far has had less of an impact than its creators intended. I encourage you, Mr. Chairman, to give the industry a push in the right direction by backing BellSouth's proposal to offer long-distance service in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson

Rick Johnson
Vice President-Marketing

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+1

WILBERT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(104-41904) - 2011

BY PATRICIA COTTE FILED

December 9, 1997

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

CC Docket No. 97-231

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a businessman in Plaquemine, Louisiana, I have become aware of BellSouth's plans to become a long-distance provider in Louisiana and am extremely interested in the outcome of their pending applications before the FCC. The reason is simple – it affects both my personal communications service as well as the services needed by my business.

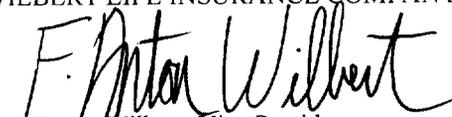
Free enterprise and competition have made America the great nation that it is. Companies know they have to work hard to retain your business by providing excellent service at reasonable rates. They also know that they have to keep in tune with their customer's need and provide new services in order to meet these changing demands. The bottom line – competition sparks responsiveness, efficiency and creativity.

I have no reason to believe it will be any different in the telecommunications industry – and those are precisely the benefits Congress intended consumers and businesses to receive when it passed the Telecommunications Act and when President Clinton signed the bill into law. What a shame to let the special interest of several huge corporations keep consumers and businesses from reaping all the benefits of full and open competition.

BellSouth wants to compete for our long-distance dollars, and I encourage you to let them. Only then will the citizens of this great nation receive the benefits promised by Congress and our President.

Sincerely,

WILBERT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY


F. Anton Wilbert, Vice President

FAW/awb

No. of Copies rec'd
DATE PROCESSED

021