

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**From:** "Mark Fermin (Comforce/RhoTech)" <a-markfe@microsoft.com>  
**To:** "fccinfo@fcc.gov" <fccinfo@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 4/16/98 6:23pm  
**Subject:** Response to the Telecom Act of 1996

96-128

I would simply like to express my opinion regarding the \$0.30 per call surcharge which I and any other corporate or personal paging customer must incur for calls made to personal/corporate 800/888 numbers from pay telephones.

RECEIVED

APR 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

While I understand the economic principles which motivated this act, specifically those allowing free entry into the telecommunications enterprise, I find that this legislation currently is affecting customers and end users quite adversely. As an employee of a major corporation and who is heavily dependent on conventional and wireless telecommunication in my position, this legislation translates into significant cost increases to myself and my company for paging. I know that I am not alone. The surcharge added to 800/888 numbers is incurred by the paging customer with such service at a quite abominable rate (\$0.30 per call). For 100 calls made to your pager, that translates to \$30 per month! This seems ridiculous for a call lasting often less than one minute! This seems extremely unfair to paging customers from small businesses or who are self employed, not to mention personal paging customers, for whom the ability to be paged from an 800/888 number is not only convenient but sometimes vitally important.

I do not think that this is at all a fair compromise to customers of telecommunications. I for one will be discontinuing my 800# from my pager, and as a business traveler, I will probably end up spending more placing the call to my pager to collect my messages, etc. Add that to the \$0.30 I would have to pay for each call, and it adds up to probably near what my home phone bill is every month! So my paging company is probably losing one customer, and I doubt that I am the first. My clients and my employer relied on the ability to page me anytime, anywhere, and from any available phone (airport, cell phone, etc.). Now they no longer have that option, and one of us must incur either long distance charges or cellular airtime to get across the same message that could have been left on my pager for significantly lower cost and at greater convenience.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Fermin  
Demo Lab Manager - Office Technical Marketing  
a-markfe@microsoft.com  
(70) x38942 18N/3315  
Check out the Demo Lab site at <http://daddemo/demohell>

9/10/98  
2

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**From:** Trino Canton <Trino\_Canton@amdahl.com>  
**To:** A4.A4(FCCINFO),FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("notnac@frontiernet...  
**Date:** 4/17/98 9:12am  
**Subject:** 30 cent charge for pay phones for toll-free numbers

*96-128*

I believe that local phone providers should get something for their phones being used to access toll free numbers (800, 888). But considering that the money is guaranteed and the collection is probably very easy and computerized it is much less costly then when they have to collect cash for the use of their phones. I think an amount such as 10 cents (\$ .10) would more then compensate them for the use of the phone that they would have in service already.

Joseph Canton  
16 Meadowbrook Lane  
Goshen, NY 10924

email: notnac@frontiernet.net

**RECEIVED**

APR 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED

*2*