

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

As proud as what we teach

4200 East Ninth Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80262

April 28, 1998

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 98-26: Petition of U S West for Relief from
Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications
Services

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am President of University Hospital in Denver, Colorado which is the teaching hospital for Colorado's only academic medical center. We treat citizens from throughout the Rocky Mountain region with state of the art health care. Our physicians offer skill, expertise and highly specialized services to Coloradans and to patients from neighboring states and around the nation and world. University Hospital is the region's leading tertiary care and referral center.

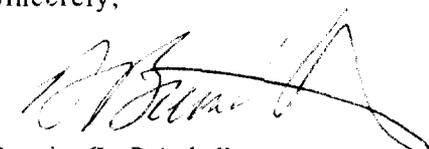
We recently learned that U S WEST filed a petition with the FCC requesting a waiver of certain provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As we understand the petition, the waiver is requested in order to carry data traffic across LATA boundaries and state lines. As current customers of U S West, we support their petition and look forward to the day when they can handle more of our networking needs.

Currently the options we have when it comes to linking all rural hospitals and practices throughout Colorado are very expensive. For example, we conduct a teleradiology program in Trinidad, Colorado that links the doctors at Mount San Rafael Hospital with our doctors here in Denver. We must use two different carriers and T-1 technology to connect the hospitals. As we understand the petition, if the waiver is granted we could simply use U S West's new Megabits technology to connect our programs in different LATAs at greater speeds and savings.

Many other competitors have entered the data network marketplace. However, due to the rural nature of much of our state, the high speed data networks are just not accessible. We urge you to grant the waiver and allow U S West to offer us another solution. We hope that with the requested relief, U S West will begin to build a regional data network in a reasonable timeframe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Dennis C. Brimhall
President



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April 29, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

Re: "Docket No. 98-26: Petition of U S WEST for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services"

I realize that this letter was to be submitted prior to April 6, but I have been out of town on vacation. Your consideration of these comments will be appreciated.

As president of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, one of my primary assignments is to carry out the mission statement adopted by the Board of Directors of this organization, which includes a commitment to improve the resources that foster a business environment in which our members can flourish.

Today, more than at any time during my 34-year career in community and business development, the people whom I represent and the community I serve need the infrastructure to facilitate the continued advancement of communication technology. Our city is the home to many high tech industries as well as corporate offices that need the latest in high technology. The fastest growing part of our economy is the many people who now represent the home-based industries in our city. These people are dependent upon the latest in technology.

With the twelfth busiest airport in the world, we have many firms and individuals that conduct international business. We have a major new development on the drawing boards that will make this country the future center of high technology development. To make this a reality will require more sophisticated data services and higher speed, more reliable and cheaper connections to the Internet.

We respectfully request that the FCC approve the U S WEST petition by lifting the regulatory barriers that are preventing deployment of advanced technologies and services to all Americans, just as Congress intended. Doing so would benefit not only U S WEST but every Internet provider in our area.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

L. GROEN



University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

TeleHealth/TeleEducation Program

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Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 98-26: Petition of U S West for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am Director of the TeleHealth/TeleEducation program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC). The UCHSC is dedicated to the education and training of health professionals; the delivery of health care and community service; and the advancement of knowledge through research in the health sciences. In achieving these goals, many of our programs are offered to students, communities, and practitioners who are geographically remote from our Denver campus. Through our distance education programs, we provide important avenues for the faculty of the UCHSC to fulfill the unique role as the State's only academic health sciences center.

The focus of our TeleHealth/TeleEducation program is to provide access to primary care, education, and research in rural, underserved populations through Colorado. We currently utilize established networks to link nine hospitals using T-1 technology. We have begun to pursue additional alliances and expand programming to other rural communities. It would be wonderful to have another option and in some cases an option at all when serving the rural communities of our state.

However telemedicine programs are relatively expensive. It is our intent to provide our users with the most convenient and efficient mode of communications while demonstrating the value of services which include access to a large network of resources, savings in travel time and costs, and elimination from isolation in the rural setting. We hope that by allowing U S West to build a data network across the region will give us more cost effective choices when building out our network.

Therefore, I request that you seriously consider the U S West petition for relief from interLATA restrictions. I urge you to grant the waiver and encourage them to build out the data network in a reasonable timeframe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty L. Charles
Administrative Director
TeleHealth/TeleEducation Program
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
and University Hospital

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