



INFORMATION & REFERRAL PROVIDERS  
OF WISCONSIN, INC.

PO Box 1946  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-1946

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JUL 14 1998

ORIGINAL

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

6/26/98

CC Docket No. 98-25

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

Dear Mr. Kennard,

As President of the Information and Referral Providers of Wisconsin, I am writing to support the establishment of 211 as a national number for community information and resources. I believe there is a demonstrated need for a simple, easily remembered dialing code to enable persons in need to be directed to community resources.

From the information I have read regarding the 911 system, between 40- 50% of calls to this system are not police emergencies. Many of the calls to 911 are callers simply seeking information (food pantries, substance abuse, shelter requests, family problems, etc.) regarding health and human service resource information. Establishment of a 211 system would alleviate congestion of the 911 lines.

Millions of dollars are invested each year by the federal government, states, counties, and the private sector to develop and maintain programs that provide information, referral and crisis intervention by telephone. The use of 211 across the nation would significantly enhance these programs.

In representing the Information and Referral Providers of Wisconsin, I strongly endorse approval of the application by the United Way of America and the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) for securing 211 nationally for the purpose of community information and resources.

Respectfully,

Michelle Lameka  
President, IRPW

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C.C. Docket No. 98-25

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4/27/98

Docket #'s  
6720-TI 146  
2815-TI 100

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MAY 1 4 50 PM '98

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Mr. William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As a member of the Communications Workers of America union, working in the telecommunications industry, I object to the sale of nineteen rural local exchanges by Ameritech in the State of Wisconsin.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was supposed to give consumers more competition, better service, and lower prices. How does selling local exchanges foster competition? What choices do the affected customers have? How does the sale of rural local exchanges by one conglomerate to another conglomerate improve service or lower prices?

Competition isn't abandoning markets; it is providing choices for service within the same market area. This sale will negatively impact universal quality service. Therefore, the sale should not be approved.

Sincerely,



Pres. CWA Lo. 4621

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Sincerely,

*Jackie Oswald*

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CC Pocket No. 98-23

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JUL 7 10 31 AM '98

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am concerned by the proposed merger of SBC Communications and Ameritech Corp. I thought the Bell system was dismantled 10 years ago in an effort to create competition in the telecommunications industry and bring savings to customers.

But it seems we have come full circle--back to an AT&T style of doing business and it doesn't seem to me that it will be good business for consumers.

Now is the time to call a halt to these large mergers and to give consumers the kind of service and prices they were promised the first time.

The FCC should say no to this proposed merger and send the message that monopolies are not the order of the day (again).

Sincerely,

Barb Hesse  
5318 Denton Pl  
Madison, WI 53711-4325

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CC Docket No. 98-25

Chairman William Kennard  
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Sincerely,

*Rita E. Lord*

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Planning for a better tomorrow

June 29, 1998

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JUL 14 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of our municipality and its residents, I am writing you about the proposed merger of Ameritech and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SBC) and the threat it may pose to cable competition.

Municipalities and their residents have wanted competition in cable service for many years. The 1996 Telecommunications Act encouraged phone companies to get into the cable business. Congress and many others expected this to occur. Partially for this reason Congress partially deregulated cable rates starting in the spring of 1999.

Ameritech has been one of the few phone companies to vigorously enter the cable business. In two years its cable subsidiary has obtained cable franchises in 74 communities in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. With these franchises it can provide cable service to 1.2 million homes.

Our community was one of the first to get cable service from Ameritech. Our residents have seen the benefits of competition in terms of improved cable systems, more channels, better service and stabilized rates.

By contracts, SBC has decided to get out of the cable business. It sold off or shut down its cable systems in Virginia, Texas and California.

We are concerned that the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBS will lead to Ameritech going out of the cable business. This would be contrary to the intent of Congress and would deprive our community and its residents of the cable competition they are starting to see.

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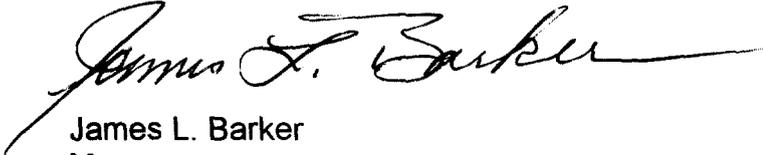
**6000 MIDDLEBELT ROAD, GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN 48135**

**PHONE (AREA 313) 525-8800**

Accounting Office	525-8815	Fire Department	422-1416	Police Department	525-8088
Building Office	525-8820	Library	525-8855	Purchasing Office	525-8814
City Clerk's Office	525-8808	Maplewood Center	525-8846	Public Services	525-8841
City Manager's Office	525-8800	Mayor's Office	525-8820	Tax Office	525-8812

Please make sure that if the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC is approved that Ameritech stays in the cable business and provides cable services to all the communities in its area who want it. Otherwise the merger will decrease cable competition. This is not what congress intended or in the public interest.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Barker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James L. Barker  
Mayor  
City of Garden City

C: Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Susan Fox  
Commissioner Rick Chessen

# Zeeland Charter Township

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JUL 14 1998

6582 Byron Road

Zeeland, Michigan 49464

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 30, 1998

CC Docket No 98 25

Phone (616) 772-7010  
FAX (616) 772-7857

10 30 AM '98

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Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the Township of Zeeland and its residents, I am writing you about the proposed merger of Ameritech and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SBC) and the threat it may pose to cable competition by taking Ameritech out of the cable business.

Municipalities and their residents have wanted competition in cable service for many years. The 1996 Telecommunications Act encouraged phone companies to get into the cable business. Congress and many others expected this to occur. This was one reason Congress partially deregulated cable rates starting in the spring of 1999.

Ameritech is one of the few phone companies vigorously entering the cable business. In two years its cable subsidiary, Ameritech New Media, has obtained cable franchises in over 75 communities in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. With these franchises it can provide cable service to 1.2 million homes, or over 10% of the homes in these four states. In Michigan it is franchised to serve 16% of our state's homes.

By contrast, SBC has decided to get out of the cable business. It sold off or shut down its cable systems in Virginia, Texas and California. SBC thus may be unwilling to commit to continuing Ameritech New Media's cable operations and expansion if the merger is approved.

Our municipality would like to get the benefits of cable competition, such as improved cable systems, more channels, better service and stabilized rates. We want Ameritech to stay in the cable business so that this can happen.

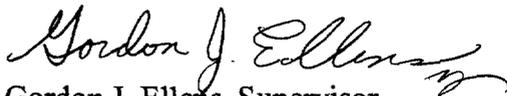
We are concerned that the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC will lead to Ameritech going out of the cable business. This would be contrary to the intent of Congress. Over 1.2 million homes could lose competition in cable service, including 16% of the homes in Michigan. It would prevent the other 84% of the homes in Michigan – including our community and its residents – from being served by the only company in our area who provides true facilities-based competition in cable service.

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Page 2  
Ameritech/(SBC)

Please make sure that if the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC is approved that Ameritech stays in the cable business and provides cable service to all the communities in its area who want it. Otherwise the merger will decrease cable competition. This is not what Congress intended nor does it serve the public interest.

Sincerely,



Gordon J. Ellens, Supervisor  
ZEELAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP

vz

cc: Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Ms. Susan Fox  
Mr. Rick Chessen

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Competition isn't abandoning markets; it is providing choices for service within the same market area. This sale will negatively impact universal quality service. Therefore, the sale should not be approved.

Sincerely,

Denise Williams  
121 Cliff  
Sun Prairie WI 53590

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## Sharing the Wealth

Dick Notebaert, whose 1996 income of \$12.8 million topped all other major telecom chief executives, earned 368 times the pay of an "average" telecom worker. NYNEX CEO I. Seidenberg, at \$12.1 million in 1996 was Notebaert's nearest rival. In 1996, Notebaert was given options on 370,000 shares of Ameritech stock, a "gift" which has a potential worth of more than \$33.3 million.

Notebaert's stock options rank him third among leading telcom CEO's behind AT&T's Robert Allen who holds options for 858,000 AT&T shares, potentially worth \$84.4 million and Bell Atlantic's Roger Smith, whose 948,000 shares could earn him a cool \$81.9 million.

*Sell off  
Rural  
Communities*

*Near Pension  
Eligible  
are Forced  
out While  
Ameritech  
Hires New  
employees at  
Minimum  
wage -  
What's  
wrong with  
Ameritech?*