



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 14 1998

96-45

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AUG 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Timothy P. Maurice
950 E. Alexis Road, Lot #315
Toledo, OH 43612

Dear Mr. Maurice:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman William E. Kennard regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. Chairman Kennard has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

Long distance companies have been indirectly bearing the costs of universal service for many years, but have only recently been assessing these costs through specific line items on customers' bills. I therefore urge you to look at the bottom line on your phone bills to determine the impact on your rates. Average long distance rates have continued to decrease. Thus, the appearance of a separate line item attributed to universal service does not necessarily reflect an increase in your overall cost of phone service.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted an Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. Universal service support for carriers serving high cost areas and for low income consumers has been provided for decades. In the 1996 Act, Congress expanded universal service goals to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress required all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent

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they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa S. Gelb".

Lisa S. Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

Timothy P. Maurice
950 E. Alexis Rd., Lot #315
Toledo, OH 43612
Fax 419-729-5386
Phone 419-729-5386
Home Phone 419-729-5386
Email backpack@megsinet.net

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JUN 8 9 53 AM '98
OFFICE

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

My long distance telephone bill has just gone up 5% because of the infamous "Gore Tax" to wire schools to the Internet. I don't want to pay to wire schools to the Internet. I'm very familiar with the Internet. It's not a school teaching aid. This effort is a waste of my money and I resent it. Don't start initiating new taxes which neither I nor my elected representatives in Congress have had a chance to vote on!

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Maurice

Timothy P. Maurice



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Bruce M. Croucher
Master, NYS Grange
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Mr. Croucher:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). I cannot express strongly enough the importance of providing discounts for telecommunications and advanced telecommunications services for schools and libraries -- which the 1996 Act explicitly requires.

As you know, on May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommendation to provide discounts for telecommunications services for schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent, with economically disadvantaged schools and libraries receiving the greatest discounts. The Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommended rule that would give schools and libraries maximum flexibility to apply their universal service discount to whatever package of telecommunications services they believe will meet their needs most effectively and efficiently. In addition to all telecommunications services, discounts may be applied to Internet access and internal connections.

The annual cap for the schools and libraries program is \$2.25 billion. During the first half of 1998, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was directed to collect \$625 million for the school and libraries mechanism. Schools and libraries should begin to receive discounts this fall.

On June 12, 1998, the Commission revised the funding year for the schools and libraries support mechanism and froze the amount of funding for schools and libraries at current rates. With regard to the schools and libraries support mechanism, the Commission directed USAC to collect and disperse no more than \$325 million per quarter for the third and fourth quarters of 1998 and the first and second quarters of 1999. Because the revised funding amounts will not fully satisfy the estimated demand by the schools and libraries that have submitted applications, the Commission revised the disbursement rules to ensure that the most disadvantaged schools and libraries get priority for support. The annual cap remains unchanged. Although the collection amounts have been revised, we will continue our commitment to provide support to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.

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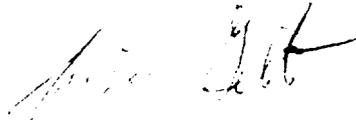
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Mr. Bruce M. Croucher

Page 2

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Gelb", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

The New York State Grange

Bruce M. Croucher, Master
100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

607 756-7553
Fax 607 756-7757



June 2, 1998

Chairman William E. Kennerd
Rm. 814
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Kennerd:

The education of the youth of our country is one of the most vital concerns of all citizens of this country. Their future and the future of our country depends on attainment of a high level of education. Access to the internet is a major part of that education. "Do not pull the plug on our children's future."

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 promised \$2.25 billion per year. This was the promise made to our schools and libraries. Fulfill that promise. Support the E-Rate discounts to our schools and libraries so that opportunities will be available to our children.

The 15,000 members of the New York State Grange supported the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We expect that you will follow through with the full amount determined in that act.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Croucher
Master, NYS Grange

BMC/ah

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Mr. Greg Benson
Chief Information Officer
The School District of Philadelphia
Board of Education
21st Street S. of the Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1099

AUG 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Benson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). I cannot express strongly enough the importance of providing discounts for telecommunications and advanced telecommunications services for schools and libraries -- which the 1996 Act explicitly requires.

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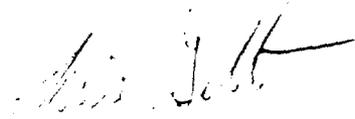
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Mr. Greg Benson

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Sincerely,

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Lisa Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

21ST STREET S. OF THE PARKWAY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103-1099

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
ROOM 202

TELEPHONE (215) 299-7002
FAX (215) 299-3500

June 9, 1998

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As Chief Information Officer for the School District of Philadelphia, I am writing to help you understand the detrimental impact that delays or further cuts in the E-rate program would have on the students in my district.

Because of the substantial level of poverty in the district, the School District of Philadelphia qualified for an 86 percent discount under the Federal Communications Commission's E-rate regulations. We regarded this as a unique opportunity to improve the telecommunications infrastructure of the district's schools and to provide our largely minority student population with learning opportunities equivalent to their suburban neighbors. We undertook careful planning to wire the district gradually over several years, to make sure that we had all the necessary resources in place.

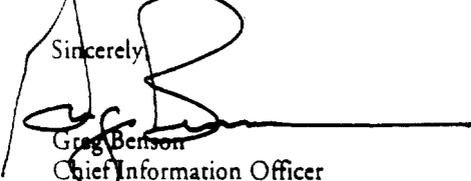
When our planning was complete, the district submitted applications for approximately \$16 million in E-rate support for calendar 1998, most of it to build networks in our schools that will enable the delivery of advanced telecommunications services in support of instruction and enhanced student skills for 21st century jobs. We spent a great deal of time and effort preparing our applications, and took particular note of the Schools and Libraries Corporation's list of eligible and ineligible services. Our request is strictly for telecommunications services, Internet access and the eligible portion of internal connections, not the carpeting or construction work that uninformed critics have alleged school districts are seeking.

Those same critics indicate that 70 to 80 percent of American schools are "wired". That is true only if "wired" means that the school principal can dial into the Internet. However, if the commission supports the goal of networking the classrooms where learning really takes place, the "have-not" schools of America must have the help of the E-rate to get the job done. With the E-rate, we will be able to build networks to serve all of the classrooms in one-third of our schools this year. Without it, we will have money only to wire one classroom and certain administrative offices in those schools.

We know that many schools in America have delayed their technological development for a year to wait for the E-rate opportunity and thus make the best use of local taxpayers' money. Please don't set us back another year by further delays or cutbacks in the program, especially now, when we are about to start our summer network implementation schedule.

The FCC and the SLC have gone to great lengths to put in place a program with careful reviews and auditors already looking over the staff's shoulders. In Philadelphia, the E-rate can make a substantial contribution to creating more equitable and higher quality learning opportunities for our impoverished children. Please give us the chance to show what we can do with the telecommunications and learning technologies in our schools.

Sincerely,


Greg Benson
Chief Information Officer

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Kenneth Stephen Burnley, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Colorado Springs School District
1115 North El Paso Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2599

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AUG 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Dr. Burnley:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). I cannot express strongly enough the importance of providing discounts for telecommunications and advanced telecommunications services for schools and libraries -- which the 1996 Act explicitly requires.

As you know, on May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommendation to provide discounts for telecommunications services for schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent, with economically disadvantaged schools and libraries receiving the greatest discounts. The Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommended rule that would give schools and libraries maximum flexibility to apply their universal service discount to whatever package of telecommunications services they believe will meet their needs most effectively and efficiently. In addition to all telecommunications services, discounts may be applied to Internet access and internal connections.

The annual cap for the schools and libraries program is \$2.25 billion. During the first half of 1998, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was directed to collect \$625 million for the school and libraries mechanism. Schools and libraries should begin to receive discounts this fall.

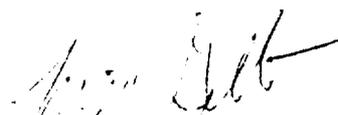
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Gelb", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lisa Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau



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Kenneth Stephen Burnley, Ph.D., Superintendent

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June 7, 1998

Commissioner William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

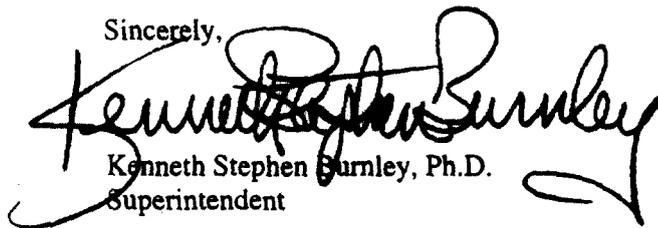
Dear Commissioner Kennard:

On May 7, 1997, Colorado Springs School District 11 first heard of the Universal Service Fund (USF). The District had passed a bond issue for technology the previous November, but the cost associated with the actual needs far exceeded the funds available. The Universal Service Fund seemed to be the answer to providing the students of District 11 with the necessary telecommunications and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

As a district, we watched anxiously as the Federal Communications Commission formulated and established the rules and regulations for the USF. We also formulated our plans and generated our request for proposals (RFP's) and were ready on January 11, 1998 when the USF website was activated. We waited our 28 days, we analyzed our RFP responses, and then the Board of Education approved \$15 million in telecommunications and infrastructure contracts. We then sent in our Form 471 reports to the USF, and the contractors bought their parts inventories and commenced construction with the anticipation that the USF would be responsible for approximately \$4 million of the \$15 million total. Understandably, this is not the time, in the middle of the ball game, to change the rules. It is obvious what AT and T, as well as MCI, is doing with the added fee to customers' bills. It is our understanding that only a small portion of the added fee actually goes to the USF, and that the reduction in access charges to long distance carriers, such as AT and T and MCI, more than offsets any fees to the USF. AT and T is one of our major contractors in the \$15 million project, which proves that the concept of the USF is working.

In summary, Colorado Springs School District 11 has participated in a federal program in good faith on the behalf of 32,000 students who are eager to enter the next century with the capability of being able to learn, communicate, and compete with the best in our nation and the world. We need your help in preventing their light of hope from literally being unplugged.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Stephen Burnley, Ph.D.
Superintendent

1115 North El Paso Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2599
(719) 520-2001 Fax: (719) 520-2278
burnley@cssd11.k12.co.us



Federal Communications Commission
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Bruce Doyle, Ed.D.
President
Colorado Springs School District
1115 North El Paso Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). I cannot express strongly enough the importance of providing discounts for telecommunications and advanced telecommunications services for schools and libraries -- which the 1996 Act explicitly requires.

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Mr. Bruce Doyle

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Lisa Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

SCHOOL DISTRICT



Building Tomorrows Today

971500

BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 7, 1998

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OFFICE

Bruce Doyle, Ed.D.
President

1815 Wood Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
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Lyman Kaiser
Vice President

5976 Del Paz Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Term: 1995/99

Sherry Butcher
Secretary

950 Pulpit Rock Circle South
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Term: 1997/2001

Shawn Yocum-Alford
Treasurer

2540 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
Term: 1995/99

S. Kent Olvey, M.D.

5950 Wilson Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Term: 1995/99

Karen Teja

6325 Moccasin Pass Ct.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Term: 1997/2001

Mary Wierman

2625 Rossmere Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Term: 1997/2001

Commissioner William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Kennard:

In November, 1996 Colorado Springs School District 11 passed a bond issue for technology, but the cost associated with the actual needs far exceeded the funds available. On May 7, 1997, the district first heard of the Universal Service Fund (USF), and it seemed to be the answer to providing the students of District 11 with the necessary telecommunications and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

As a district, we watched anxiously as the Federal Communications Commission formulated and established the rules and regulations for the USF. We also formulated our plans and generated our request for proposals (RFP's) and were ready on January 11, 1998 when the USF website was activated. We waited our 28 days, we analyzed our RFP responses, and then the Board of Education approved \$15 million in telecommunications and infrastructure contracts. We then sent in our Form 471 reports to the USF, and the contractors bought their parts inventories and commenced construction with the anticipation that the USF would be responsible for approximately \$4 million of the \$15 million total. Understandably, this is not the time, in the middle of the ball game, to change the rules. It is obvious what AT and T, as well as MCI, is doing with the added fee to customers' bills. It is our understanding that only a small portion of the added fee actually goes to the USF, and that the reduction in access charges to long distance carriers, such as AT and T and MCI, more than offsets any fees to the USF. AT and T is one of our major contractors in the \$15 million project, which proves that the concept of the USF is working.

As President of the Board of Education, I encouraged the District to participate in a federal program in good faith on behalf of 32,000 students who are eager to enter the next century with the capability of being able to learn, communicate, and compete with the best in our nation and the world. We need your help in preventing a program that has tremendous potential from being unplugged before it has the chance to succeed.

Sincerely,

Bruce Doyle, Ed.D.
President

.....
Kenneth Stephen Burnley, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 14 1998

96-45

Ms. Marsha Hendrick
Head Teacher
Satsop School District #104
P.O. Box 96
853 Monte-Elma Road
Satsop, WA 98583

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AUG 17 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Hendrick:

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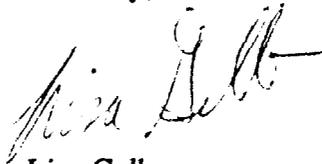
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Lisa Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

Satsop School District #104

Post Office Box 96
853 Monte-Elma Road
Satsop, WA 98583
(206) 482-5330

June 8, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Kennard:

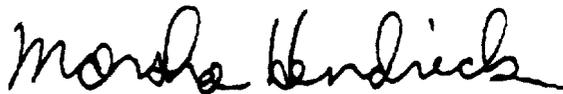
As a school district that has participated in the E-rate application process, we are requesting that the commission continue to complete the funding as originally planned.

Our district is extremely small and this funding was going to provide the means to get our building networked. As you may know, the State of Washington has moved ahead and have allocated funding to connect each school district in a state-wide network. These fund were to be used to connect each of our classroom to this network and also to the Internet.

There has been much media comment that connecting to the Internet is not a primary concern in bringing our students and schools to a higher standard. After actually seeing students interact with the computers and their interest in all parts connected to it, it would be a disservice not to allow them the opportunity to participate in all phases now available and any future technology.

Sincerely,

SATSOP SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 104



Marsha Hendrick
Head Teacher

MH:dh

OFFICE OF

JUN 8 1 52 PM '98

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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 14 1998

Mr. Aaron R. Fessler
President
Allegro
6450 Poe Avenue
Suite 416
Dayton, OH 45414

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Lisa S. Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

130049

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JUN 15 4 21 PM '98

A L L E G R O

OFFICE OF
June 12, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Kennard,

We are a three-year old company located in Dayton, Ohio employing 24 individuals. We provide Internet messaging services to the corporate community, nationwide. Our service is provided to a wide-range of companies including: Mercedes-Benz, Continental Airlines, NASCAR, Smuckers, and Gloria Jean Coffee. Unlike common Internet access providers, such as America Online, whose customers connect via local calls only, our corporate clients connect to our equipment using toll-free numbers.

The recent implementation of the Universal Service Fee has had an extremely negative impact on our bottom line. During the first five months alone, we have incurred the following costs due to the Universal Service Fee:

Month	Total Amount of Phone Bill	Universal Service Fee
January 1998	\$109,964.65	\$4,703.90
February 1998	\$122,162.22	\$4,582.77
March 1998	\$116,555.16	\$5,038.14
April 1998	\$116,332.46	\$4,858.65
May 1998	\$128,952.27	\$5,066.00

Because we are under a four-year contract with our carrier, MCI, a major change in our business model is not possible. In addition, our customers are under contract to us.

Before the onerous Universal Service Fee was levied, our profit was stable. Implementation of USF is costing our company approximately \$5,000 per month - over \$60,000 a year. For a company our size, this is a significant amount of money.

Oftentimes, legislation is enacted without knowing the full impact of it. It is for this reason that we respectfully request that *The Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996* be

Mr. William Kennard
Page 2
June 12, 1998

amended to restructure the program in a way that insures that it will relieve the burden from small companies like us.

If you or someone on your staff would like to discuss this matter further please contact me.

Sincerely,



Aaron R. Fessler
President

CC: Susan Ness, Commissioner
Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner
Michael Powell, Commissioner
Gloria Tristani, Commissioner
Senator John McCain
Senator Michael DeWine
Senator John Glenn



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

96-45

AUG 14 1998

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AUG 17 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Michael E. Peck
8731 W. Meadowbrook Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85037-1409

Dear Mr. Peck:

Thank you for your letter to former Chairman Reed H. Hundt regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. Chairman William E. Kennard has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

Long distance companies have been indirectly bearing the costs of universal service for many years, but have only recently been assessing these costs through specific line items on customers' bills. I therefore urge you to look at the bottom line on your phone bills to determine the impact on your rates. Average long distance rates have continued to decrease. Thus, the appearance of a separate line item attributed to universal service does not necessarily reflect an increase in your overall cost of phone service.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted an Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. Universal service support for carriers serving high cost areas and for low income consumers has been provided for decades. In the 1996 Act, Congress expanded universal service goals to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress required all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent

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Mr. Michael E. Peck

Page 2

they recover **their** contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover **contributions** and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa S. Gelb".

Lisa S. Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

RECEIVED

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980055
June 9, 1998
8731 W. Meadowbrook Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85037-1409

OFFICE OF

Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am writing this letter to express my dissatisfaction with recent decisions of the Federal Communications Commission, which have resulted, and will soon again result in increased charges on my telephone bill. I am retired and live on a fixed income, and each time a new charge is added to my telephone bill, I find it more difficult to find the money to pay for my telephone service.

I was very disappointed to learn that the FCC recently approved long distance companies to pass a charge directly on to their customers for expenses that local phone companies are collecting from the long distance companies as a carrier line charge. That added a new line item fee to my phone bill of \$0.95 per month. That probably doesn't seem like a lot of money to you senior executive service folks, but it is to me, Mr. Hundt. What seemed to be wrong with the idea of letting the local and long distance phone companies figure out how to defray their business expenses and develop competitive pricing for the services they provide? At least then, I would have a choice as a consumer to pick the company based on the service they provide, and the price that they charge for their service. Your decision just gave each of the long distance companies a license to dig into my pocket for another buck each month.

Now I have learned that the FCC is going to get into the welfare business by managing an "enhanced" universal service fund that you will be collecting from me through the telephone companies. Who in the devil gave the FCC the authority to act as the Internal Revenue Service and stick your hands in my pocket to help out low income phone users, rural customers, schools, libraries, and rural health care providers? I already have two Senators and a Representative who do a fine job of giving my Federal tax money away, and it is already enough of a chore to write letters to them to give them my views, without having to write to a surrogate tax man at the FCC.

I expect you and the FCC to manage frequencies, regulate bandwidth, monitor what is put out over the air, and enforce your regulations. Let the telephone companies competitively price their services, and the marketplace determine who is successful and who isn't. Let the Congress decide and be held accountable for how tax dollars are allocated to help low income folks, public organizations, and the rural health care