

RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER
RUSH UNIVERSITY

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Ⓡ RUSH

LEO M. HENIKOFF, M.D.
PRESIDENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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October 7, 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

CC DOCKET NO. 98-141

Dear Commissioner Ness:

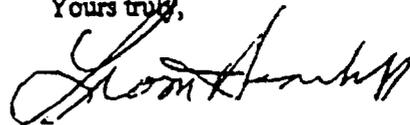
I am writing to comment on the proposed merger of Ameritech with SBC from the perspective of a large employer and large consumer of communication services in the Chicago metropolitan area. Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Rush University, and the Rush System for Health employ some 18,000 people and have an operating budget of just under \$2 billion. I am president and CEO of all three entities and also chair the board of the Rush System for Health. In these capacities I have, for the past 15 years, had a business relationship with Ameritech for our telecommunication services in the Chicago area.

In telecommunication, just as in health care and banking, the cost of technology development and technology implementation necessitates a very broad base of customers to support this infrastructure expense. It is this investment in infrastructure that brings new products and advanced technologies into the marketplace, and especially at an affordable price. This merger will create the dimensions in the resulting company to make such investments and to compete against other large telecommunication players here in the Chicago area. It is important that we have this capability in a company that has a history of partnership with institutions such as ours. Putting together the strengths of Ameritech and SBC will create the size necessary to make such investments and ultimately for the market to receive the benefits of that investment.

There is always the question as to whether service quality will be enhanced or impaired as the size of a business increases. In this circumstance it is my belief that service quality will be enhanced because of the synergies of these two companies and that our ability to carry out the mission of this organization will be aided and abetted.

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed merger on the basis of its impact on Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's and other similar large business customers of Ameritech.

Yours truly,



mls

cc: Ann Howat, Ameritech

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