



OHIO CONFERENCE of NAACP BRANCHES

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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October 15, 1998

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

CC DOCKET NO. 98-141

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Kennard:

In today's global economy minority organizations must ask new questions regarding survival tactics. As we reflect on the results of the NAACP Telecommunications Consumer Choice Guide and Report Card, it seems clear that minority communities served by progressive information age providers have a decided edge. To our local advantage, Ameritech and SBC, merger partners, are among the top telecom companies nationwide in their support of the minority community. Consequently, here in Ohio we find ourselves in an enviable position.

Hiring, employment, purchasing activities, and contributions to community programs have the potential to be even stronger when Ameritech and SBC combine and become a formidable competitor throughout the country and in overseas markets. The PAC Tel merger with SBC resulted in a doubling of their contribution dollars.

Furthermore, the Communication Workers of America (CWA), one of the strongest no nonsense unions in the country, strongly supports the merger. I was impressed that CWA expects "many good high tech union jobs to come about as the result of telephone network expansion and build out."

As President of the Ohio Conference of Branches of the NAACP, I would like you to know I look forward to working with you, Ameritech and SBC to build on their foundation of support for our local African-American community.

We are so very proud of your achievements as the first African-American Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman and stand willing to assist you in this matter in whatever way possible.

Sincerely,

James H. Daniel, President
Ohio Conference of NAACP Branches

JHD/alh

- c: Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Glona Tristani

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