

# THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING

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October 14, 1998

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

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CC Docket #98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the National Council on the Aging (NCOA) I write with regard to the proposed merger between SBC and Ameritech. NCOA is the founding organizational member of our nation's aging network, serving seniors and community providers for almost fifty years.

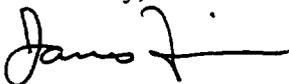
In our view, there are a number of potential advantages the proposed merger could have for consumers. For example, global competitiveness and international service would likely improve. In addition, shareholders, a significant proportion of whom are older Americans, could benefit.

For many years, NCOA has supported efforts to provide older people and persons with disabilities assistive telecommunications technologies. The proposed merger could promote innovation through the development of new services and enhanced product choices by accessing such new technologies as Internet and high-speed data services. This is particularly important for the growing number of older persons using these advanced communications technologies.

We urge the Commission to work to ensure that the needs of low-income seniors will continue to be met.

In general, we believe that the proposed merger should improve efficiency and customer service and convenience.

Sincerely,



James P. Firman  
President and CEO

cc: Commissioners Susan Ness, Michael Powell, Harold Furchgott-Roth, Gloria Tristani