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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CONGRESSMAN RAY LAHOOD
18TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

October 8, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

CC DOCKET NO. 98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

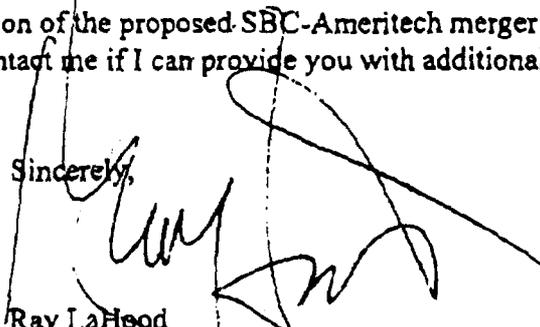
I am writing to express my continuing interest in the proposed merger of SBC Communications and Ameritech. Since the proposed merger was first announced, and the merger application subsequently filed with the Commission in July, I have noted the announcement of several other proposed mergers in the communications industry. In the interest of fairness, I encourage you to consider these proposed mergers based on their individual merits.

SBC and Ameritech, for instance, have indicated their strong desire to enter other markets outside their traditional territories to compete for both residential and business customers. This is the type of competition that we envisioned with the passage of the Telecommunications Act, and which I believe we should continue to encourage and promote. Additionally, customers--especially major business customers in my state--have international markets that require a communications company that can serve them worldwide. A combined SBC-Ameritech would have the capability to fill this need and be a significant competitor in the vast and growing international communications marketplace.

In conclusion, I believe that any discussion on mergers should include a discussion on jobs and growth. The SBC-Ameritech merger is one of the few that enjoys support from labor. Since acquiring Pacific Telesis, SBC has added more than 2,000 new jobs in California, and the company promises similar job growth in the Midwest with the purchase of Ameritech.

Your thoughtful and expeditious consideration of the proposed SBC-Ameritech merger is genuinely appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,


Ray LaHood
Member of Congress

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