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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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CC DPT. 96-45

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Barbara Cubin
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
100 East "B" Street
Room 4003
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Congresswoman Cubin:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Mrs. Audry Hauber, regarding "HCF Surcharge on Intrastate Toll Calls and a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and 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. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate 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.

The 1996 Act requires 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 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.

With regard to the "HCF Surcharge on Intrastate Toll Calls, your constituent can contact her state commission since local telephone companies are regulated primarily at the

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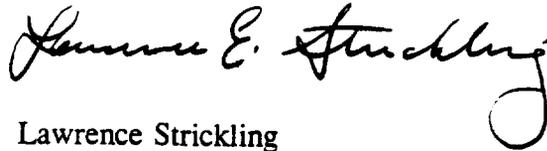
The Honorable Barbara Cubin

state level. Officials from the Wyoming Public Utility Commission can identify the telephone carrier that is best able to provide service.

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, reading "Lawrence E. Strickling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping final letter 'g'.

Lawrence Strickling
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

FOR ALL WYOMING



100 EAST B STREET
SUITE 4003
CASPER, WY 82601
(307) 261-6597
FAX: (307) 261-6597

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ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901
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FAX: (307) 362-4097

DEPUTY WHIP

June 19, 1998

ccp
96-45B

6097

Ms. Diane Atkinson
Congressional Liaison
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 857
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

Enclosed please find a copy of the telephone bill and note from my constituent, Mrs. Audry Hauber, concerning the "HCF Surcharge on Intrastate Toll Calls" listed on her statement. As you can see, Ms. Hauber is also interested in information from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) concerning the "E-Rate", also referred to as the "Gore Tax".

Please look into these matters on behalf of Mrs. Hauber and provide me with as much information possible so that I may address her concerns. You may respond to me at 100 East "B" Street, Room 4003, Casper, Wyoming 82601; or fax (307) 261-6597.

Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from the FCC.

With warm regards,

Barbara Cubin

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

BCjk

enclosures
SENT VIA FAX: (202) 418-2806 ¹⁶⁶²

**PRIMETIME 24
SUBSCRIBER ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. MY CURRENT RECEPTION OF THE CHALLENGING STATION IDENTIFIED ON THE REVERSE SIDE IS:

() CLEAR () SNOWY () GHOSTING () SPARKLES () LINES

() OTHER: Have no idea, we don't get the station at all

2. THESE ARE SOME FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE QUALITY OF MY RECEPTION OF THE CHALLENGING STATION:

() HILLS/VALLEYS () WEATHER () SEASONS

() BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES () TREES () ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE

() INTERFERENCE FROM OTHER CHANNELS

() OTHER PROBLEMS: _____

3. DO YOU HAVE A CONVENTIONAL BROADCAST ANTENNA ON YOUR ROOF?

() YES (X) NO

A. IF NO, THE REASON IS (CHECK ANY THAT APPLY):

(X) THE EXPENSE () THE INCONVENIENCE

() ZONING/DEED OR LEASE RESTRICTIONS

() OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

B. IF I HAD A CONVENTIONAL ROOFTOP ANTENNA, I BELIEVE MY RECEPTION WOULD BE:

() CLEAR () POOR () OTHER (DESCRIBE) Don't know

I BASE THIS CONCLUSION ON:

() MY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH A ROOFTOP ANTENNA

() MY NEIGHBOR'S EXPERIENCE WITH A ROOFTOP ANTENNA

() OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

4. () I WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HOW I CAN HELP PRIMETIME 24 CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NETWORK PROGRAMMING TO SUBSCRIBERS WITH POOR PICTURE QUALITY. MY PHONE NUMBER IS (309) 436-8519.

5. MY SATELLITE DISH IS INSTALLED IN A LOCATION OTHER THAN MY MAILING ADDRESS:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:
PRIMETIME 24 COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 5293
F.D.R. STATION
NEW YORK, NY 10150-5293

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO RESPOND!

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

BCyk
SENT VIA FAX: (202) 418-2806 ¹⁰⁶²

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