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Sharon Priest
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arkansas
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March 15, 1999

CC Docket No. 98-147
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

As your agency considers the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications, please allow me to express how supportive SBC has been to Little Rock and the State of Arkansas. SBC has a tremendous record of corporate citizenship in Arkansas. I have worked closely with SBC on many projects they have sponsored that directly contribute to the quality of life in our community.

While I am most familiar with SBC, I also understand that Ameritech goes above and beyond the call of duty to promote the quality of life in the communities it serves. Whether one is viewing corporate philanthropy, involvement in community causes, workforce diversity, vendor diversity, or progressive personnel policies, these types of firms are leaders of American industry.

To the best of my knowledge, I have reason to believe that a merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications would create a progressive global firm.

Sincerely,

Sharon Priest
Arkansas Secretary of State

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