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May 7, 1999

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

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

CC Docket No. 98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the Former Mayor of the city of Oakland, California, I have seen first hand what SBC/Pacific Bell has done in the State of California. When the merger took place, California was promised 1,000 new jobs. That was three years ago. To date they have hired in excess of 4,000 people to fill new jobs. We look for them to do even more in the coming months and years. In addition, they have put minorities into key positions in northern California.

I point these issues out because you are in the process of determining if SBC should merge with Ameritech. If the SBC merger with Pacific Bell is any indication of what SBC intends to accomplish through the proposed alliance with Ameritech, I would support the merger.

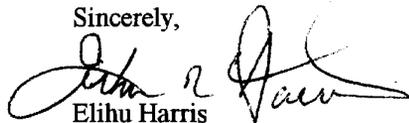
I don't stand alone on this issue. I know that the NAACP has given high marks to SBC because of its hiring of minorities. In addition the National Caucus and Center of Black Aged, Inc., the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and at least 90 congressional members have endorsed this merger. Members of the Justice department have also given their approval for this merger to take place.

I am sure that you will continue to monitor the actions of the merged companies to make sure that customers benefit from the merger.

I have every confidence that this merger is in the best interest of the public in that it will help to lower rates and continue to create the competition that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 intended.

Again, I support the merger and urge your approval.

Sincerely,

  
Elihu Harris

EH/skn

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