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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable William E. Kennard
 Chairman
 Federal Communication Commission
 1919 M Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C. 20544

CC DKT. NO. 98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As your agency considers the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications, please allow me to add my voice to those calling for your support of this merger.

I agree that the merger makes sense from a business and economic perspective. I also concur that it will help to bring about widespread competition that we all so eagerly await. Yet, these are not my primary reasons for supporting this merger. I do so because of the tremendous record of corporate citizenship that these two firms have compiled over the years.

Both SBC Communications and Ameritech have gone above and beyond the call of duty to promote the quality of life in the communities they serve. Whether one is viewing corporate philanthropy, involvement in community causes, workforce diversity, vendor diversity, or progressive personnel policies, these firms are among the top tier of American industry. Quite frankly, some of their major competitors---particularly those who are newer to the industry---don't seem to put as high priority on these issues.

One of the best reasons to approve this merger as soon as possible so that two progressive regional companies can combine to create a progressive global firm. I believe that this will help inject new level of corporate responsiveness into the telecommunications industry, and I believe that this is precisely the kind of goal that the Federal Communications Commission should be seeking.

Thank you for the attention you have given to my views.

Sincerely,

Socorro M. Roman
Pres. NWE Hispanic
Coord Council (26 organizations)

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Socorro ROMAN
Pres. Northwest IN. HISPANIC
COORDINATING COUNCIL
913 INDIANA AVENUE
GRIFFITH, INDIANA
46319



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

20334+0001

