

Policy



**TOMMY G. THOMPSON
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**Governor
State of Wisconsin**

March 12, 1999

CC DKT NO. 98-141

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

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I believe the Ameritech/SBC merger will deliver significant real benefits to the people of Wisconsin – more communications choices, continued substantial infrastructure investment and well-paid high-tech jobs. I fully support this merger.

Wisconsin residents and companies need increasingly sophisticated, reliable communications to continue to fully participate and compete effectively in the globalized economy. This merger will equip Ameritech with the size and resources necessary to offer the state of the art communications capabilities our people need.

More importantly, the merger will stimulate other communications industry powerhouses to innovate just as relentlessly and invest just as aggressively to compete with the combined Ameritech/SBC. This is the kind of competition intended by Wisconsin's visionary 1994 Information Super Highway law and the federal Communications Act of 1996.

The all-out communications competition this merger will stimulate will be good for Wisconsin today and in the future. Wisconsin's vibrant economy and progressive social programs are models for the nation. Increasingly, they rely on advanced communications.

I urge you and your agency to speed your review of this union and to approve it.

Sincerely,

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

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