

106

File



ORIGINAL RECEIVED National Council of Senior Citizens

President George J. Kourpias Executive Director Steve Protulis

8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1200 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3314 • (301) 578-8800 • Fax (301) 578-8999

July 29, 1999 OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

RECEIVED AUG 13 1999

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

Federal Communications Commission Secretary

CC DOCKET NO. 98-141

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The National Council of Senior Citizens believes that the proposed GTE/Bell Atlantic merger is in the public interest and should be approved by the F.C.C.

We believe that the proposed merger will bring benefits both to the consumers of telecommunications services as well as to the active and retired employees of both companies. As we understand the plans of the concerned companies, the merger will lead to significant business expansion and job creation across the nation.

Because these companies are both unionized with Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) representing some 150,000 employees, we trust that the companies will continue their leadership in worker compensation and job opportunities. In addition, we expect a continuation of labor-management agreement on superior retiree income and health benefits. Both of these unions sponsor outstanding retiree programs and many CWA and IBEW retirees are members of this Council.

Finally, we are confident that the merger will strengthen consumer services for all customers. We understand that both companies have been community leaders in guaranteeing that low and moderate income households will continue to benefit from universal coverage mandates.

In short, this proposed merger will be a plus for consumers, workers, industry retirees and local and national economies which will be positively affected by job growth and increased investment by the combined resources of GTE and Bell Atlantic. We urge your approval of the merger. Thank you.

Sincerely, Steve Protulis Steve Protulis Executive Director

No. of Copies rec'd 102 List ABCDE