

RECEIVED August 16, 1999

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Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Counter TWA 325
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Ref: CC DOCKET #99-249

Dear Magalie Salas:

I am writing in protest to the minimum charges incurred by the long-distance phone companies and AT&T in particular. I believe that these charges are unfair to the people who don't use long-distance services, in order for those who do to be able to use them cheaper.

A article in our newspaper(The Paducah Sun) on Sunday, August 15, **written by Cindy Skrzycki** of the Washington Post states that **these charges** are \$3.00 per month by AT&T, but on my last phone bill a **\$6.00** charge was added plus taxes and fees, which increased the bill a total of \$9.72 for the current bill.

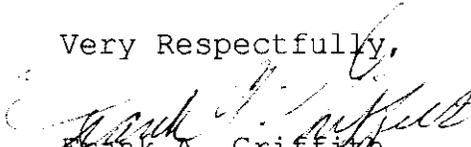
All of these minimum fees need to be examined by the FCC, and I believe discontinued, because they impose a hardship on some elderly people, and a unfair charge to those who can afford them.

In the same article, Yog Varma states that up to 20 million consumers could be hit with the charges without ever making a single call. That's an estimated income of 60 million dollars a month for AT&T, based on the \$3.00 charge and 120 million dollars a month based on the \$6.00 charge. When we consider that the charges will amount to a total estimated income of \$720,000.00 to \$1,440,000.00 per year to just AT&T alone, it is simple to see that the consumer is being "ripped off".

I have already contacted Bell South and AT&T about the additional charge and forwarded a copy of my phone bill to the Kentucky Public Service Commission for action.

Please reconsider the charges allowed to the long-distance carriers.

Very Respectfully,


Frank A. Griffith
102 Grace Nell Drive
Paducah, KY 42003
Ph: (270-534-9759)

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