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Leon M. Kestenbaum
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September 30, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Ms. Salas:

On September 29, 1999, Dick Juhnke and I, together with Dr. Jan Acton of Charles River Associates, met with Richard Lerner, Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau's Competitive Pricing Division, to discuss Sprint's concerns regarding excessive CLEC access charges.

We argued that CLECs have bottleneck monopoly power over access to and from their customers and that the Commission should regulate this bottleneck. Of the various options discussed in the Commission's August 27, 1999 Further Notice in the referenced docket, we argued that the preferable option, consistent with the Commission's desire to avoid intrusive regulation, would be to establish the rate of the ILEC in whose territory the CLEC operates as a ceiling on what CLECs could charge IXCs for access and to allow the CLEC to impose any additional access charges directly on its local service customers. We also discussed the economic and policy problems posed by other options mentioned in the Further Notice.

An original and one copy of this letter are being filed.

Sincerely,

Attachments

cc: Richard Lerner

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