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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
LODGING &
RESTAURANT
ASSOCIATION**

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October 5, 1999

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Blaise A. Scinto, Deputy Chief
Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW, Suite 6-A207
Washington, DC 20554

cc Docket 96-98

Re: File No. NSD-L-99-71
The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Petition for Additional
Delegated Authority to Implement Number Optimization Measures in the 603
Area Code

Dear Deputy Chief Scinto:

On behalf of the hundreds of members of the New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association, I urge you to support the petition filed by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) for authority to implement unassigned number porting, implement mandatory thousand number block pooling, adopt interim number assignment standards, enforce number assignment standards and revise rationing procedures, if necessary.

New Hampshire has been informed that without changes in the way telephone numbers are distributed, it will run out of local exchange codes in 603 by the first quarter of 2001. The NHPUC has made a decision to implement statewide 10-digit dialing if this occurs.

If New Hampshire is granted the authority requested in its petition filed in this docket, it could avert the need for a new area code for the foreseeable future.

It makes no sense to force upon New Hampshire businesses and residents the added burdens that go along with 10-digit local dialing (ie: reprogramming equipment, such as burglar alarms, fax machines, computer modems, etc.) when there are measures available to more effectively give out new numbers and use existing unused numbers.

Recently, the New Hampshire State Legislature passed two bills concerning this matter. The State Senate passed SR 3, which urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act favorably and promptly on the NHPUC's petition requesting authority to implement area code conservation measures. Another bill, HB 388, encourages the NHPUC to continue to press the FCC for technical and regulatory solutions to telephone number exhaustion.

Member:



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We respectfully ask you to look favorably on the NHPUC petition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Falton".

Betty Falton, President
New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association