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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Cable & Wireless, Inc.

8219 Leesburg Pike
Vienna
Virginia 22182

www.cw-usa.net

Telephone (703) 790-5300

November 23, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Ex Parte Presentation

Bell Atlantic Application for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in New York (Bell Atlantic Section 271 Application) CC Docket 99-295

Implementation of the Subscriber Carrier Selection Changes Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996: Policies and Rules Concerning Unauthorized Changes of Consumers Long Distance Carriers, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Slamming FNPRM) CC Docket 94-129

Dear Ms. Salas,

On Monday, November 22, 1999, Wharton "Zie" Rivers, Rachel Rothstein and I met with Commissioner Tristani and her senior legal advisor, Rick Chessen. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Commissioner Tristani to Mr. Rivers, the new President of Cable & Wireless North America, and to explain the transformation being undertaken by Cable & Wireless to be a truly "global" provider of IP, data, and voice services. We emphasized the importance of the Commission's continuing efforts to create and maintain level playing fields in all telecommunications markets. During the course of this meeting, a variety of topics were discussed, including two proceedings that are currently pending at the Commission.

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First, we urged the Commission to move expeditiously to resolve an issue pending in a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that is part of the Commission's docket addressing carrier selection procedures. Specifically, we asked the Commission to affirm that requests for telecommunications service obtained over the Internet are valid as letters of authorization under the Commission's rules. We explained that the Commission's current rules do not allow carriers to rely on requests for service placed by customers over the Internet as valid letters of authorization. We noted that, while consumers are able to purchase airline tickets, books, cars and most other consumer goods over the Internet, the Commission has yet to affirmatively recognize that this same convenience should be available for consumers seeking to sign up for telecommunications services. Finally, we indicated that we had been discussing this issue with the staff of the Common Carrier Bureau and were hoping that the Commission would take swift action to resolve this issue.

Second, we discussed Bell Atlantic's pending application with the Commission seeking authorization to provide in-region, interLATA services in the state of New York. We urged the Commission to remain vigilant in its efforts to make certain that all RBOCs, including Bell Atlantic, fully comply with the terms of section 271 before receiving authority to offer in-region, interLATA services. We emphasized that the Commission's vigilance is critical to ensuring that carriers are able to compete on a level playing in all telecommunications markets.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, an original and four copies of this notice are being provided.

Sincerely,

Brent M. Olson
Senior Regulatory Counsel

cc: Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Rick Chesson