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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:)	
)	
United States Telecom Association)	RM 9707
Petition for Rulemaking – 2000 Biennial)	
Regulatory Review)	

**REPLY COMMENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES TELECOM ASSOCIATION**

The United States Telecom Association (USTA) respectfully submits its reply comments filed November 30, 1999 in the above-referenced proceeding.¹ USTA is the nation's oldest trade association for the local exchange carrier (LEC) industry. USTA represents more than 1,200 telecommunications companies worldwide that provide a full array of voice, data and video services over wireless networks. USTA members support the concept of universal service.

Consistent with the requirements of Section 11 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, in 1998 and for the year 2000, USTA has petitioned the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding for the purpose of identifying rules which should be eliminated or modified because they are no longer in the public interest. USTA and its member companies believe that its petitions could serve as the basis for the "aggressive Year 2000 Biennial Review" which is part of the Commission's strategic plan for the 21st century. The Commission has noted that elimination of unnecessary rules will be a key policy

¹ Formerly the United States Telephone Association.

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initiative over the next five years and many parties have supported such an initiative in public fora as well as in comments supporting USTA's petitions.

The Commission should fulfill its obligations under Section 11 to streamline its rules, and reduce unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens. Such an initiative would enhance fair competition, encourage efficiency and improve customer welfare. USTA urges the Commission to adopt a rulemaking proceeding to initiate the 2000 biennial review as recommended in USTA's petition.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES TELECOM ASSOCIATION

By:  _____

Its Attorneys:

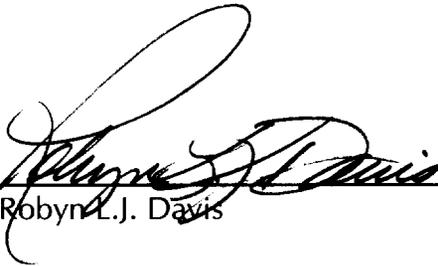
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November 30, 1999

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robyn L.J. Davis, do certify that on November 30, 1999 Reply Comments of the United States Telecom Association were either hand-delivered, or deposited in the U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid to the persons on the attached service list.


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