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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CC Docket No. 96-98

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In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of the Local Competition)
Provisions of the Telecommunications)
Act of 1996)

**OPPOSITION OF SPRINT TO REQUEST
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sprint Corporation hereby opposes the December 29, 1999 request of the United States Telecom Association (USTA) for a two-week extension of time in the dates for filing comments and reply comments regarding the substitution of UNEs for access services in the above-captioned docket.

As a result of the Commission's November 24, 1999 Supplemental Order in this proceeding (FCC 99-370), in which without notice or opportunity for comment it temporarily prohibited IXCs from converting special access services to combinations of UNEs pending further Commission action, any delay clearly works to the advantage of USTA's members and prejudices the interests of interexchange carriers. Moreover, in view of the relatively relaxed comment period already provided for under the current schedule,¹ USTA should have had ample time to undertake the data compilation efforts

¹ The current schedule gave parties 68 days from the release of the Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 99-238, rel. November 5, 1999) and 49 days after the issues were expanded by the Supplemental Order, to prepare their initial comments.

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on which its request for extension is predicated, and USTA fails to provide a meaningful explanation of why the time period already allowed was insufficient for that purpose.

Accordingly, Sprint urges the Commission to deny USTA's request for extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT CORPORATION



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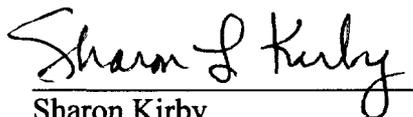
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January 3, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Kirby, do certify that on January 3, 2000, a copy of Sprint's Opposition to Request for Extension of Time of the United States Telecom Association in CC Docket No. 96-98 was hand-delivered or sent First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the parties listed below.


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