



**National
Business
Association**

ORIGINAL

January 26, 2000

Magalie Roman-Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Committed

Ex-Parte

to the

RE: CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 99-249, 96-45

Success of

Dear Madame Secretary:

Small

The National Business Association (NBA) urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt the proposal for interstate access and universal service reform submitted by the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Service (CALLS).

Business

The NBA is a national non-profit association with 50,000+ members primarily from the Small Business Community. The NBA uses it's group-buying power to provide our members with support programs, cost and time savings products, services and resource material. The NBA represents the Small Business Community in Washington, D.C. monitoring legislation and voicing concerns to key government representatives.

The CALLS proposal translates into real savings for small business directly through elimination of the PICC charge, reductions in the Subscriber Line Charge on multi-line businesses, and lower long distance bills. Many small businesses count on long distance service for contacting customers, and for marketing through "800" numbers. Lowering these charges will make our businesses more productive.

It also reflects a major step toward achieving the goals the Telecommunications Act of 1996 regarding universal service subsidies in a competitive marketplace. The Act directs the Commission to move from a system on implicit subsidies where business customers subsidized local residential service, to one of contributions from all providers of telecommunications services. This works to the advantage of small business by increasing competition and lowering prices for local and access services.

Finally, we urge the Commission to ensure that whatever savings are realized by long distance carriers under the access charge provisions of the CALLS proposal be passed through to customers - business and residential.

These provisions coupled with Commission action to require pass through of access charge savings make the CALLS proposal a winner for America's small business. We urge the Commission to act promptly on the CALLS proposal.

Sincerely,

Pat Archibald
President

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