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April 3, 2000

The Honorable Gloria Tristani
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street, SW
Washington, DC

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Dockets 96-262, 94-1, 99-249, 96-45

Dear Commissioner Tristani:

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) encourages you to approve the modified access charge reform proposal submitted by the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Service (CALLS).

As you may know, Hispanic owned businesses are one of the nation's fastest growing categories of small business. The USHCC, with over 200 local Hispanic chambers of commerce, is committed to ensuring that Hispanic entrepreneurs have access to services, products and opportunities that they need to succeed. This includes promoting public policies that will reduce the cost of owning and operating a business and which increase the availability of advanced communication and information technology to businesses.

We applaud the CALLS coalition for the pro-small business elements of the proposal and we encourage the FCC to seriously consider the favorable economic and public interest benefits for small businesses. In particular, the CALLS access charge reform proposal phases out the distinction between primary and secondary phone lines and the higher per-line monthly charge for additional lines. By reducing the cost of owning multiple phone lines, small businesses can increase their profit margin, grow their business and fully integrate Internet technologies. This is especially important given that more and more large companies are requiring their small business partners to use Internet connections and high-speed data communications.

Another element of the CALLS plan that will benefit our members is the \$2.1 billion reduction in per-minute access charges. Since so many of our members are high volume long distance customers who make both domestic and international long distance calls, the additional savings that they will reap from this reduction will be very attractive to their bottom line. We are also pleased that the CALLS plan

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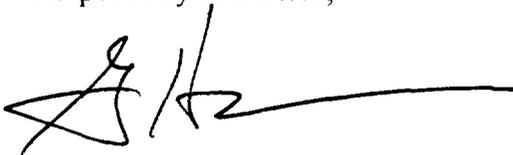
Page Two
Letter to Commissioner Tristani
April 3, 2000

increases the universal service fund by \$650 million to help keep basic local phone rates affordable in high cost and rural areas. This means a lot to our members in places like New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and California.

The USHCC encourages you to capitalize on a rare industry phenomenon—consensus between local and long distance service providers— and to move forward with implementing the modified CALLS access charge reform proposal.

Thank you for the factoring in the comments of the USHCC on a matter that is important to our members.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Herrera', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

George Herrera
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Magalie Roman Salas

I, Ayesha Nichols, an Associate for the Alliance for Public Technology, hereby certify that on the April 13, 2000 copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments of the Alliance for Public Technology In the Matter of The Coalition for Affordable Long Distance Service (CALLS) Modified Proposal" were hand delivered to:

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