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September 25, 2000

Ms. Magalie R. Salas

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

The Portals

445 Twelfth Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

RE: Wireless Bureau Docket No. 99-217, Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications

Dear Madam Secretary:

On Monday, September 25, the undersigned had a telephonic discussion with Mr. Mark Schneider of Commissioner Ness's office.

The discussion related to Wireless Bureau Docket No. 99-217, Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications. The following information was related during the conversation:

- ICTA represents Private Cable Operators (PCOs), that compete with franchised cable, and Multifamily Dwelling Units (MDU) owners that need to provide quality telecommunications services so residents are pleased and maintain occupancy.
- These providers and users are working together for the benefit of residents.
- ICTA has strongly supported FCC Inside Wiring Rules and now we want the FCC to act to facilitate greater competition.
- The Wireless Bureau item is very important because it may, inadvertently, interfere with PCO ability to compete.
- Virtually none of our member companies own commercial/office buildings; they are residential/dwelling MDU owners.
- ICTA MDU owners need to provide enhanced telecommunications products and services or they lose residents to buildings that do.
- ICTA MDU members can't afford to act as bottlenecks or barriers to competition.

Independent Cable & Telecommunications Association

3004 Oregon Knolls Drive, NW

Washington, DC 20015

E-Mail: icta@icta-online.com Web Site: www.icta-online.org

PH: 202.364.0882 FX: 202.364.8309

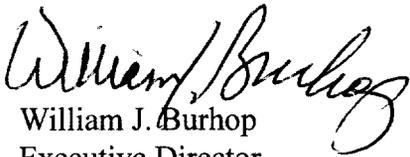
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Ms. Magalie R. Salas
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- There is virtually no evidence in the Wireless Bureau record indicating that MDUs are a barrier or problem for enhanced competition.
- There is much evidence that our MDU members seek new providers.
- Our MDU members want PCOs to compete with franchised cable operators because PCOs offer innovation such as channel line-ups tailored to the property and in-house channels; they do not have perpetual contracts and their rates are very competitive.
- If the Wireless Bureau rule in any way weakens the FCC video Inside Wiring Rules, or serves to expand state mandatory access rules; that would be counter-productive for MDU residents.
- Our MDU members also have experience that video exclusive contracts of a limited duration serve to enhance competition.
- Without exclusive contracts alternative providers such as PCOs have difficulty making business plan work.
- Without PCOs, ICTA MDU members would not be able to offer the new products that residents want such as DBS and High-Speed Internet connections.
- If the Wireless rule retards the competitive process, MDUs and residents will be left with few alternatives to the franchised cable companies.

Additionally, we have provided Mr. Schneider with a copy of our ExParte filing of June 6th regarding CS Bureau Docket No. 95-184, Telecommunications Services, Inside Wiring, Customer Premises Equipment, which addresses some of the relevant questions discussed in the referenced conference call.

Sincerely yours,


William J. Burhop
Executive Director

cc: Mark Schneider

Attach: June 6, 2000 – ExParte Filing – additional material