

WELLESLEY CHAMBER of COMMERCE, INC.

ONE HOLLIS STREET, SUITE 111
WELLESLEY, MA 02482-4671

Chairman, Board of Directors
William T. Hurley, Jr., Esq., CPA
Gerald T. Reilly & Company

President and CEO
Jeanne Lukas

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 10, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. CC-00-176
Application by Verizon for Authorization Under Section 271
To Provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing to ask that the Federal Communications Commission approve Verizon's application to compete in the long distance market. As the president of the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed how competition in the telecommunications industry has benefited small businesses.

Never before in our history have consumers enjoyed the privilege of purchasing a complete range of telecommunications services at significantly reduced rates. However, while most companies have the option to provide a full range of services, Verizon is still restricted from offering its customers long distance. This ultimately hurts small consumers. The Wellesley Chamber of Commerce is a small business, as are many of our members. We would certainly welcome the enhanced service Verizon would be able to offer.

Verizon's entrance into long distance will result in the packaging of services, providing customers with more cost effective and convenient shopping options. Any business, who is currently a relatively small customer to a telecommunications provider, would welcome the ability to purchase in bulk long distance, local, internet and portable phone services from one provider. Suddenly the small business will find itself a much more significant customer and one that commands a higher level of service as well as aggregate discounts. Unless Verizon is allowed to compete in all markets, options for small businesses will be limited at best.

Along with more competition should come lower rates and better service for consumers. The competitive pressures that would result from a new player such as Verizon in the long distance market would motivate all telecommunications companies to become more innovative as well. With this in mind, please allow Verizon to provide our small businesses with long distance offerings in addition to the other high quality products and services they currently market. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely

Jeanne Lukas
Jeanne Lukas
President and CEO

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Cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Representative Barney Frank

