

Bristol Workforce Investment Board

One Government Center, 5th Floor, Fall River, MA 02722
Tel. (508) 675-1302 Fax (508) 675-1169

Bonnie Coughlin
Chair

Patricia Auerbach
Executive Director

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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 6, 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 to Provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas:

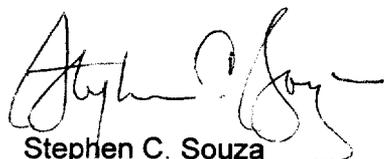
The Bristol Workforce Investment Board is a private sector led board chartered to provide policy direction on workforce development initiatives in Bristol County. We serve 11 communities in Southeastern, MA.

We support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the benefits it provides to businesses and communities in our region. Verizon's ability to provide long distance and Internet backbone services will promote competition and spur more consumer choices. Customers want three things: one stop shopping for all their services, a full bundle of local and long distance products, and simple fair, pricing. Expanded choice for all users is a key benefit of Verizon's long distance entry.

Verizon has worked hard to ensure our service in Massachusetts is the best in the industry. Local markets are open to competition across Massachusetts and Verizon has earned the right to provide long distance service.

We urge you to approve Verizon's long distance application.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Souza
Director of Workforce Development

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Haddad Electronic Supply Inc.

OCT 13 2000

138 Durfee St, PO Box 2707
Fall River, Ma 02722
New England's Largest Comdial Dealer
Voice 508-679-2596
Fax 508-676-6620

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 6, 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:

Haddad Electronic Supply is one of New England's largest dealers of Comdial telecommunications products. I also am an authorized wireless agent for Nextel. I am very attuned to the impact the telecommunications industry has on the economy. Since Divestiture my business has evolved from a traditional electronics business to one of the largest telecommunications vendors in the region. I have served as a vendor for CellularOne, Lucent Technologies, AT &T and Northern TelCom. Haddad Electronics presently supports telecommunications systems and infrastructure for regional and national accounts. As technologies continue their rapid advancement, opportunities for economic development abound.

Local competition is thriving in the Commonwealth. Competitors today successfully use Verizon's systems to serve nearly 700,000 lines in the Bay State. I believe a competitive market that includes Verizon, as a provider of the full range of telecommunications services would benefit all consumers. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. Consumers deserve the option of choosing Verizon for all of their local and long distance services.

I look forward to growing competition in both local and long distance telephones services and strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to quickly approve the Verizon application to provide long distance telephone and Internet services.

Sincerely,



Solomon D. Haddad, President

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Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc.



12 Welby Road, New Bedford, MA 02745-1136
Tel: (508) 995-3067 Fax: (508) 995-1260
E-mail: GNBWIB@aol.com

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 6, 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 to Provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board leads a number of civic, education, and economic development initiatives in the Southeastern MA region. Much of my work focuses on providing policy direction in the development of a comprehensive, regional workforce development system in an area of the Commonwealth that for too long had suffered from urban blight.

The New Bedford area is transforming its economy from one reliant on manufacturing to one that is communications dependent. Through several broad-based initiatives, we are actively seeking to attract and retain companies that rely heavily on the telecommunications infrastructure. Verizon's network is reliable, and people depend on it every day. Even in disasters and storms, Verizon goes to extraordinary lengths to ensure that people have phone service.

Verizon has been a partner with the New Bedford community on social and economic development initiatives. We know that Verizon's commitment to all of the residents of Massachusetts, including the New Bedford Community, will be maintained and strengthened with its entry as a full-service competitor in Massachusetts.

We support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the benefits it provides to businesses and communities in our region. Expanded choice for all users is a key benefit of Verizon's long distance entry.

We urge you to approve Verizon's long distance application.

Sincerely,


Leonard Coriaty
Executive Director

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A Public/Private Partnership Supporting Economic Development in the Region

Acushnet - Dartmouth - Fairhaven - Freetown - Lakeville - Marion - Mattapoisett - New Bedford - Rochester - Wareham



City of Taunton

Mayor's Office of Economic Development
12 Taunton Green, Suite 201, Taunton, MA 02780-3227

Tel. (508) 821-1168

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Fax (508) 884-8222

October 10th, 2000

*Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402
Washington, D. C. 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 support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the immediate benefits it will bring to consumers, and the potential it represents for the continued development of advanced services across our state. Verizon has worked hard to ensure our service is the best in the industry.

As computer technologies continue their rapid advancement, opportunities for economic development abound. We need to provide the right incentives for investment and true competition throughout all areas of Massachusetts, and provide the catalyst for more end-to-end investment in telecommunication infrastructure for all regions of Massachusetts.

Beyond its core business, Verizon has been a key partner in working with urban schools and community groups on educational technology and workforce development issues. As the industry continues to expand, efforts like these help our citizens secure their place in the information economy.

Verizon's commitment to service all customers, its commitment to broadly offer new services, and its commitment on tough community and economic development issues are reason enough to support its expansion into long distance services.

Sincerely,


Richard L. Shafer,
Economic Development
Director

RLS/jnc

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PARTNERS IN EDUCATION*Keeping Children at the Center*

October 6, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Elizabeth and Edward Reddy Endowment
FundRalph H. Taylor
Times², Inc.Roger E. Walters
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AutoZone, Inc.Pamela Westard
Orange County Public SchoolsMagalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554**Re: CC Docket No. 00-176 /
Application by Verizon for Authorization Under Section 271 to Provide
Long Distance Service In Massachusetts**

Dear Ms. Salas:

The National Association of PARTNERS IN EDUCATION appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in response to the Public Notice issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 22, 2000. The FCC has been asked to approve Verizon's entrance into the long-distance market in the state of Massachusetts and PARTNERS IN EDUCATION urges you to approve the application to open competition in that state as quickly as possible.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION works closely with schools, volunteers, community organizations, civic leaders, and businesses to facilitate systemic education reform initiatives, increased community and family involvement in education, and leadership development. Consequently, many of our members work closely with local telecommunications providers, like Verizon, to launch education technology initiatives. The Association represents more than 400,000 partnership programs that involve over 7 million corporate and citizen volunteers.

Verizon has forged many partnerships with local and national education organizations and is on record for supporting numerous education technology initiatives, including teacher training and distance learning. PARTNERS IN EDUCATION values this type of community involvement because it contributes positively to the education of youth and increases the potential for success for all students. In addition, we are very interested in making sure that schools have access to affordable materials, services and products, including telecommunication services. This has taken on heightened importance with the growing use of telecommunications in the delivery of education.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION believes that by allowing Verizon into the long distance market in Massachusetts, the FCC will foster a more robust competitive environment that will help to drive prices down for schools and families. PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

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901 North Pitt Street, Suite 320 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1536

Phone 703-636-4800 • Fax 703-636-8841 • E-mail NAEHQ@NAPEHQ.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
October 6, 2000
Page 2

also values the added benefit of offering one-stop shopping to schools and families which will help ease the administrative burden.

We believe the application by Verizon to provide long distance service in Massachusetts will serve the interest of schools and families there. PARTNERS IN EDUCATION looks forward to the FCC's approval of this application so consumers in Massachusetts can enjoy the benefits of a more robust telecommunications market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel W. Merenda".

Daniel W. Merenda
President and CEO

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City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor

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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thaddeus Strojny, Mayor
Eric DeMoura, Mayoral Assistant
Barbara Monteiro, Administrative Assistant
Shelly Costa, Administrative Assistant



15 Summer Street
Taunton, MA 02780
(508) 821-1000 phone
(508) 821-1005 fax

October 6, 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:

The City of Taunton is in the middle of one of the fastest growing areas of Massachusetts. The southeastern region of the state is experiencing rapid growth as new industries find this region to be a healthy competitive environment for their businesses. This expansion has fostered millions in infrastructure investments by developers, utilities and competitive telecommunications companies alike, as they attempt to keep pace with demand from residential and commercial demand for space.

As Mayor, I must consider the interests of both business and residents of the city. With that in mind, we have encouraged the deployment of competitive communications networks in our city. AT&T now offers its digital telephone service in Taunton and our municipal electric company is an Internet service provider.

I know that under the Telecommunications Act, Verizon had many obligations to open its network to competition as a condition to offering long distance services. Based on our experience in the City of Taunton, the company has done that.

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I believe that Verizon now should be able to compete fairly in other markets. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. Consumers deserve the option of choosing Verizon for all of their local and long distance services.

This application with the FCC is about giving consumers real choice and value by providing real competition in the long distance market. I encourage you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,



Thaddeus Strojny
Mayor

TS:sc

The Boston Private Industry Council

OCT 13 2000

Cathy E. Minehan
Chair

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Neil Sullivan
Executive Director

October 11, 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:

The Boston Private Industry Council works very closely with the Boston Public Schools to assure that the City's young people are familiar with and prepared for the world of work. We enable a wide variety of shadowing, mentoring and internship opportunities that give students strong skills and a clear understanding of what's required of workers in this Information Age.

Verizon has been an active partner in our school-to-career efforts for many years. They have supported our programs to build technology skills among students and have provided job opportunities for both students and teachers.

We work with small and large businesses to match students with employment opportunities and it's clear that the job market in Massachusetts, particularly in the telecommunications sector, is booming. Our students have had a wide range of job experiences in and around the Boston area.

We would welcome a decision that allows Verizon able to compete fairly in the long distance arena, since it has encouraged and enabled other companies to enter the local telephone market in the state. We presume that Verizon's entry into long distance will bring more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. But most importantly, more competition in Massachusetts will be healthy for the economy – creating even more jobs for the Boston students and families served by the Boston Private Industry Council.

I hope that you will consider the value that Verizon adds to the local community in a favorable decision on its long distance application.

Respectfully,



Neil Sullivan
Executive Director

cc: Senator Kennedy
Senator Kerry
Congressman Moakley

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TOWN OF COHASSET

OCT 13 2000



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
41 Highland Avenue
Cohasset, Massachusetts 02025

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Tel: (781) 383-4105
Fax: (781) 383-7087

October 6, 2000

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a public official concerned with fostering the economic well being of my town and state, and encouraging competitive options available to our residents, I enthusiastically support Verizon's application to provide long distance service in Massachusetts.

Time and time again, I have been impressed with Verizon's responsiveness in providing local telecommunications service to the town government and to the people we serve. I am confident that the same will be true in the long distance market if the FCC rules favorably on the company's application.

While good corporate citizenship may not be a formal factor in the Commission's deliberation on this matter, I must include a positive reference to the manner in which Verizon and its employees contribute to the social fabric of our region. Verizon is not simply a company doing business in our community – Verizon is an integral part of our community.

Kindly include this expression of support for Verizon as part of the record to be considered by the Commission in this application.

Very truly yours,

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

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TOWN OF RANDOLPH
INC. 1793

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Town of Randolph

Office of the
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Town Hall, 41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PAUL J. CONNORS

Tel. (781) 961-0911

Fax. (781) 961-0905

October 6, 2000

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a public official concerned with fostering the economic well being of my town, and encouraging competitive options available to our residents, I enthusiastically endorse Verizon's application to provide long distance service in Massachusetts.

Time and time again, I have been impressed with Verizon's (former Bell Atlantic and New England Telephone) responsiveness in providing local telecommunications service to the town government and to the people we serve. I am confident that the same will be true in the long distance market if the FCC rules favorably on the company's application.

While good corporate citizenship may not be a formal factor in the Commission's deliberation of this matter, I must include a positive reference to the manner in which Verizon and its employees contribute to the social fabric of our region. Verizon is not simply a company doing business in our community – Verizon is an integral part of our community.

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Page 2
October 6, 2000
Federal Communications Commission

Kindly include this expression of support for Verizon as part of the record to be considered by the Commission in this application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Connors", written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Connors
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

lms

The Chamber.

PLYMOUTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Celebrating 50 years

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the executive director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, I am a committed advocate of public initiatives that will stimulate the economy by providing consumers with more sound alternatives in the marketplace. I am pleased to submit this letter in support of an initiative that will do just that: Verizon's application to provide long distance service in the Bay State.

My understanding is that Verizon has thoroughly opened its local network to competition in Massachusetts and that scores of competitive local exchange carriers are serving customers from facilities housed inside Verizon central offices. In keeping with the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, fairness calls for Verizon being allowed to provide long distance service in return.

While good corporate citizenship may not be a formal factor in the Commission's deliberation on this matter, it is important to note that Verizon and its employees continually make substantial contributions to the economic and social fabric of our region. Verizon is not simply a company doing business in our community – Verizon is an integral part of our community.

Please include this letter of support for Verizon's application in the record to be considered in this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. O'Rourke
President

Cc: Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Kerry
Rep. Delahunt

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 11, 2000

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the Executive Director of the Cape Cod Technology Council, Inc., I have a profound interest in fostering communications initiatives that stimulate the regional economy and create alternatives in the marketplace. I am pleased to submit this letter in support of a measure that will do both: Verizon's application to provide long distance service in the Bay State.

My understanding is that Verizon has thoroughly opened its local network to competition in Massachusetts and that scores of competitive local exchange carriers are serving customers from facilities housed inside Verizon central offices. In keeping with the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, fairness calls for Verizon to be allowed to provide long distance service in return.

Please include this letter of support for Verizon's application in the record to be considered on this matter.

Sincerely,

Spyro Mitrokostas
Executive Director

CC: US Senator Edward M. Kennedy
US Senator John F. Kerry
US Representative William Delahunt

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National Congress For Puerto Rican Rights
Massachusetts Chapter

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



P.O. Box 3272
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

October 11, 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:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR) is pleased to offer its support for Verizon's long distance application in Massachusetts. Our mission is to support the needs of Puerto Ricans living on the mainland by helping to empower our people and promote the advancement of education, civic involvement, and the awareness of our cultural heritage. Equally important to our mission is our focus on creating a better quality of life by advocating on social, civic, economic and political issues.

Verizon's long distance approval will greatly benefit the Latino community as a whole in Massachusetts, but in particular, because of the natural connection between Puerto Rico and the Northeast, literally hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts Puerto Ricans will benefit. Our culture is solidly based in family values and traditions. Frequent communication with friends and family back home is a way of life. For Puerto Ricans living in Massachusetts having another choice in long distance carriers, particularly one like Verizon that has a history of service to the Latino community is good for us. Our constituents are eager for simple, fair pricing from a company they can trust.

We are also excited about the possibilities Verizon's expansion into long distance provides for Latinos in the areas of new services like distance learning. As the entire communications industry continues to grow, we expect our constituents will have even greater employment opportunities.

Verizon has proven itself as a community partner, as a service provider within the Latino community, and as a fair competitor in its industry. It's time to let Verizon offer its customers all the services they demand.

Sincerely,


Giovanna Negreth
President

Cc: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

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CITY OF MELROSE

PATRICK C. GUERRIERO
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4440
Fax - (781) 662-2182

October 6, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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:

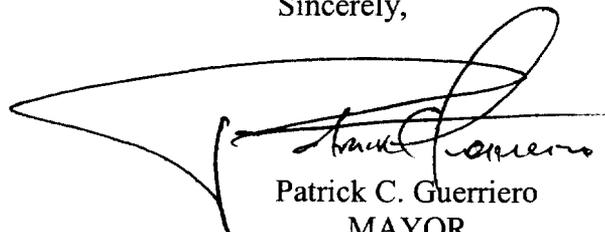
As the Federal Communications Commission reviews Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts, I am writing to support the company's entry into this market.

As the Mayor of Melrose, Massachusetts, a city located just seven miles north of Boston, I have seen in recent years how businesses and residents in my community have flourished as a result of new technologies. None of these success stories would have become reality without access to quality telecommunications infrastructure, products and services.

Since Verizon opened its network up to competitors, consumers have benefited from more choice, lower costs and new technology offerings. Now it is time to take the next step and enable Verizon, a company that has been an integral part of our community for many years, to offer customers long distance services.

I believe that as Verizon grows, its commitment to the residents and businesses in Melrose, as well as the Commonwealth, will be strengthened. Because I want to see this economic growth continue, it only makes sense that the FCC approves Verizon's application, which would allow it to compete in the long distance marketplace.

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Guerriero
MAYOR

CC: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Representative Edward Markey

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FRANK M. HYNES
REPRESENTATIVE
SCITUATE-MARSHFIELD
ROOM 489, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2552
Rep.FrankHynes@hou.state.ma.us

GIGI MIRARCHI
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

Committees on
Vice Chair
Long Term Debt and
Capital Expenditures
Post Audit and Oversight

STEPHANIE PETERS
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

October 10, 2000

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 00-176, Application by Verizon for Authorization Under
Section 271 to provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a veteran Massachusetts legislator who appreciates the importance of stimulating the economy and of providing consumers with affordable alternatives in the marketplace, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of a measure that will do both: Verizon's application to provide long distance service in the Bay State.

My understanding is that Verizon has thoroughly opened its local network to competition in Massachusetts and that scores of competitive local exchange carriers are serving customers from facilities housed inside Verizon central offices. In keeping with the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, fairness calls for Verizon being allowed to provide long distance service in return.

Please include this letter of support for Verizon's application in the record to be considered in this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Hynes
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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**School Committee
Members**

E. Kevin Harvey, Bellingham
Matthew C. Krajewski, Blackstone
John C. Lavin, III, Douglas
Diane M. Paradis, Grafton
Everett A. Young, Hopedale
Michael D. Peterson, Mendon
Arthur E. Morin, Jr., Milford
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr., Millbury
Gerald M. Finn, Millville
Edward B. Postma, Northbridge
Mitchell A. Intinarelli, Sutton
Robert H. Snow, Upton
Daniel L. Baker, Uxbridge

**Blackstone Valley Vocational
Regional School District**

65 Pleasant Street
Upton, Massachusetts 01568-1499

**Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Superintendent-Director**

(508) 529-7758
Fax # (508) 529-3079
E-mail: mfitzpat@valleytech.k12.ma.us



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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 12, 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:

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District serves students from thirteen towns in central Massachusetts. Our region experienced the height of its prosperity from the Civil War era through World War I, when the textile industry built mills all along the Blackstone River. Today, we are in the middle of an economic resurgence as new technology companies discover the valuable resources our region has to offer and begin relocating their businesses to this area.

As superintendent-director of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, my goal is to ensure that our students have the tools, training and opportunities to succeed in this new economy. With Verizon's entry into the long distance marketplace, we expect an increased demand for communications industry workers to continue, improving business and employment opportunities for our students.

As important, allowing Verizon into long distance will provide the catalyst for more investment in the Internet backbone across Massachusetts. The current restrictions that keep Verizon from offering these services are stifling growth in Internet backbone connections. For regions such as the Blackstone Valley, this creates a daunting cost penalty, as we have to arrange for costly private connections to faraway backbone hubs. Competitors like Verizon will rapidly expand investment in network facilities designed to serve all customers in all areas of the state. As a result, speed and quality can be dramatically improved.

I support Verizon's long distance application and urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve their request expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Superintendent-Director

MFF/dbp
cc: Senator Kennedy, Senator Kerry
Congressman Neal, Congressman McGovern

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Town Hall
29 Center Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Tel. (781) 270-1600
FAX (781) 270-1608
E-MAIL: info@burlmass.org

Town Administrator's Office

Robert A. Mercier, Town Administrator (781) 270-1635
Larry Rittenberg, Assistant Town Administrator (781) 270-1636

October 8, 2000

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

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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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,

As the Federal Communications Commission reviews Verizon's petition to offer long distance service in Massachusetts, I am writing to ask that you work expeditiously to approve it.

As the Assistant Town Administrator of Burlington, I have worked with Verizon on community and economic development issues for many years. Verizon has always taken a strong interest in our town. By supporting our efforts and learning about our issues and concerns, the company enabled us to serve our constituency, which consists of both residents and businesses, more effectively.

Verizon not only has helped us resolve community issues but has worked hard to ensure that our service in Massachusetts is the best in the industry. Verizon already has invested \$800 million to upgrade its network in Massachusetts. With its entry into the long distance market, Verizon will be better positioned to make further investment, which will enable our community as well as others in the state to grow.

In addition, Verizon also has met the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's stringent service guidelines for the past five years running and has made extraordinary headway in opening its networks to local competition. Because of this effort, Verizon deserves the same regulatory relief many of its competitors currently enjoy.

Sincerely,



Larry Rittenberg
Assistant Town Administrator

Cc: Senator Kennedy
Senator Kerry
Representative Markey

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



October 11, 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:

The petition by Verizon to offer long distance in Massachusetts is an important step toward a fully competitive communications marketplace in Massachusetts. We applaud Verizon for taking this step, and we urge the FCC to approve their request expeditiously.

The MetroWest Chamber of Commerce and our economic development arm, MetroWest Momentum, work to increase the economic strength of our region. Verizon has long partnered with us on economic development, job creation, retention, education and workforce development initiatives. The company has invested heavily in our region, which has provided both residential and business users in the MetroWest area with a reliable telecommunications infrastructure.

The availability of reliable, competitive telecommunications services is an important factor in the decisions to live and work in the MetroWest area. Through Verizon's efforts to open up the local market to competition, we have seen a marked increase in the number of companies building networks and offering services to our members and the residents of our local communities. Allowing Verizon to offer long distance services will only improve the competitive market in the MetroWest area.

We have heard about the savings New York consumers have enjoyed thus far this year, and are excited about the potential savings and expanded services for Massachusetts consumers. Businesses and consumers will have new choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long-distance services.

We look forward to your approval of Verizon's long distance application for the benefits it will bring to MetroWest consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Barbieri
Chair, Board of Directors

A. Theodore Welte, CCE
President

cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator John F. Kerry
Congressman Edward J. Markey

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City of New Bedford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FREDERICK M. KALISZ, JR.

Mayor

October 6, 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:

The City of New Bedford is in the fastest growing area of Massachusetts. This expansion has fostered millions in infrastructure investments by developers, utilities and competitive telecommunications companies. Technology is the bridge to the information economy. For many years southeastern MA has relied on manufacturing to support out economic health and well being. Today, we must look forward to other industries to shore up economics and promote regional prosperity.

As mayor of the fourth largest city in the Commonwealth, I must consider the interests of both business and residents of the city. With that in mind, we have encouraged the deployment of competitive communications networks in our city. Consumers and businesses benefit from more choices for all types of communications services.

We support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the benefits it provides to businesses and communities in our region.

I know that under the Telecommunications Act, Verizon had many obligations to open its network to competition as a condition to offering long distance services. Based on our experience in the City of New Bedford, the company has done that.

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
October 6, 2000

Page 2.

I believe that Verizon now should be able to compete fairly in other markets. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. Customers deserve the option of choosing Verizon for all of their local and long distance services.

This application with the FCC is about giving consumers real choice and value by providing real competition in the long distance market. I encourage you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr.", written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr.
Mayor

FMK/mco



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Brockton, Massachusetts

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

John T. Yunits, Jr. - Mayor

October 11, 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:

The City of Brockton is of one of the fastest growing areas of Massachusetts. This expansion has fostered millions in infrastructure investments by developers, utilities and competitive telecommunications companies

As mayor, I must consider the interests of both business and residents of the city. With that in mind, we have encouraged the deployment of competitive communications networks in our city. We are uniquely positioned in this regard, as most of the major carriers have established points-of-presence in Brockton. These collocation points, created with the full cooperation of Verizon, provide critical interconnection points for both users and alternative carriers throughout the region. They also provide customers with many choices for their telecommunications services. Several carriers have built networks in Brockton over the years. Media One now offers its digital telephone service in Brockton, and our local electric company has installed a switch in the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Office. The Brockton area is transforming its economy from one reliant on manufacturing to one that is communications dependent. Through several broad-based initiatives, we are actively seeking to attract and retain service-based companies that rely heavily on telecommunications.

We support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the benefits it provides to businesses and communities in our region.

I know that under the Telecommunications Act, Verizon had many obligations to open its network to competition as a condition to offering long distance services. Based on our experience in the City of Brockton, the company has done that.

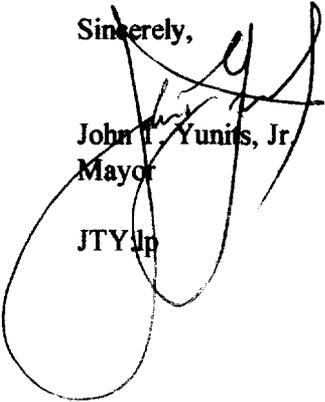
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Ms. Salas
October 11, 2000
Page 2

I believe that Verizon now should be able to compete fairly in other markets. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. Consumers deserve the option of choosing Verizon for all of their local and long distance services.

This application with the FCC is about giving consumers real choice and value by providing real competition in the long distance market. I encourage you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,



John T. Yunis, Jr.
Mayor

JTY:lp

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OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

City of Fall River Massachusetts

One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722
Tel. (508) 324-2600
Fax (508) 324-2626
(508) 324-2000 Voice/TDD

Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

Mayor

Executive Department

October 6, 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:

The City of Fall River is in the middle of one of the fastest growing areas of Massachusetts. Fall River is transforming its economy from one reliant on manufacturing to one that is communications dependent. Through several broad-based initiatives, we are actively seeking to attract and retain service-based companies that rely heavily on telecommunications. This expansion has fostered millions in infrastructure investments by developers, utilities and competitive telecommunications companies.

As mayor, I must consider the interests of both business and residents of the city. With that in mind, we have encouraged the deployment of competitive communications networks in our city. We are uniquely positioned in this regard, as most of the major carriers have established points-of-presence in Fall River. These collocation points, created with the full cooperation of Verizon, provide critical interconnection points for both users and alternative carriers throughout the region. They also provide customers with many choices for their telecommunications services.

We support Verizon's application to provide long distance services in Massachusetts for the benefits it provides to businesses and communities in our region. All consumers will benefit when there are more providers of long distance market services. Consumers and businesses alike will be the recipients of the benefits of increased competition not only for long distance but also for local and data services.

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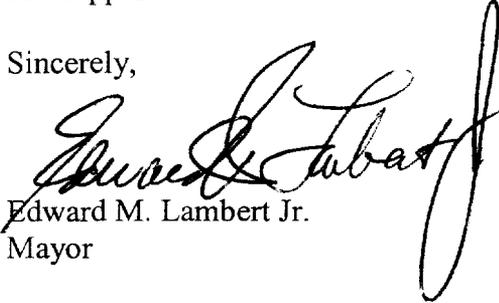
City of Fall River, Massachusetts — EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

I know that under the Telecommunications Act, Verizon had many obligations to open its network to competition as a condition to offering long distance services. Based on our experience in the City of Fall River, the company has done that.

I believe that Verizon now should be able to compete fairly in other markets. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local distance services. Consumers deserve the option of choosing Verizon for all of their local and long distance services.

This application with the FCC is about giving consumers real choice and value by providing real competition in the long distance market. I encourage you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,



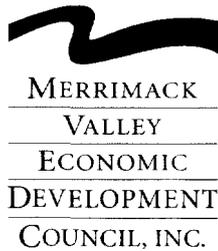
Edward M. Lambert Jr.
Mayor

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October 10, 2000

OCT 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



305 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840-1410
Tel: (978) 975-8787
Fax: (978) 975-8811

Robert J. Halpin
President

David A. Tibbetts
Counsel

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:

Without technology, our economy cannot grow. For many years Massachusetts has relied heavily on manufacturing to support its economic health, but today, our state is increasingly looking toward high tech industry to bolster its economy. That is why it is so critical that the Federal Communications Commission move to approve Verizon's petition to become a full service provider.

As the president of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council, I have seen great economic growth in my region of the state as a result of the success of telecommunications and high tech businesses. Because of this growth, it is important that Verizon continue to invest resources to strengthen the telecommunications infrastructure in Massachusetts. With revenue raised from offering long distance services, Verizon will be able to continue to improve its network and businesses and residents alike will benefit from the improved services.

Verizon has worked hard to ensure that its network is reliable, and people depend on it everyday. Verizon is constantly working to keep its business customers competitive by using technology to reduce their costs and by introducing new services for residential customers to make their lives easier to manage. Because I am familiar with Verizon's commitment to the economic well-being of Massachusetts, I know it will only be strengthened with the company's entry into long distance. When the economy is strong, everybody benefits.

Regards,

Bob Halpin
President

Cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Representative Martin Meehan

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Consulado General de la República Dominicana

20 Park Plaza, Suite 601, The Statler Building, Boston, MA 02116

Tel.: 617.482.8121 • Fax: 617.482.8133

October 12, 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:

The Dominican Consulate in Boston represents our country in the United States on matters of trade and economic development, and develops linkages between U.S. citizens and companies and the Dominican Republic.

I am writing on behalf of the Consulate in Boston to support the application by Verizon to offer long distance services in Massachusetts.

Research from the Gaston Institute at the University of Massachusetts in Boston shows that Dominicans are Boston's fastest growing Latino segment. Many Dominican residents in Massachusetts are entrepreneurs engaged in homegrown businesses. The importance of having a variety of choices for local and long distance telephone services cannot be overstated. We rely heavily on the telephone for many aspects of our lives, including the need to stay in touch with friends and family back home.

Dominican consumers need companies to offer all consumers – not just the heaviest users - fair and simple pricing. We believe we'll get that from Verizon, which has proven its commitment to working with ethnic communities. Because of the savings consumers will realize, we urge you to support Verizon's long distance application in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,


Ramon Abreu
Vice Consul



Cc: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER/TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Kathleen A. Mullin
Director

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:

The School-to-Career Office of the Boston Public Schools is committed to helping young people better prepare themselves for the world of work. We ensure that students have strong skills and that they have an understanding of what's required of workers in the 21st century.

Verizon, formerly Bell Atlantic, for many years has been an active partner in our school-to-work efforts. They have supported our programs to build technology skills among students and have provided job opportunities for both students and teachers.

It's clear from our work with local businesses that there's a robust and competitive market for telecommunications services in Massachusetts. Our students are in demand at the many companies in and around the Boston area.

Since others have entered the local telephone market in the state, I believe that Verizon now should be able to compete fairly in other markets. Verizon's entry into long distance will bring even more choices, innovative pricing and packaging of local and long distance services. But most importantly, more competition in Massachusetts will be healthy for the economy – creating even more jobs for the students in the Boston Public Schools.

I would encourage you to recognize the value that Verizon brings to the local community and to give their long distance application your full support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Mullin
School-to-Career Director
Boston Public Schools

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PUERTO RICO FEDERAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PEDRO ROSSELLÓ
GOVERNOR

ALFONSO AGUILAR-SARTORI, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 11, 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,

On behalf of the Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico, I wish to endorse Verizon's long distance application in Massachusetts.

As the Massachusetts Regional Office of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, we are charged with providing technical assistance to community based organizations across the Northeast and promoting Puerto Rico as the gateway to the United States of America.

With more than 200,000 residents of Puerto Rican heritage living in Massachusetts, this state has strong economic, social and community ties to Puerto Rico. Many residents stay in constant contact with friends and family back on the Island of Puerto Rico, which makes them very significant users of long distance telephone services.

Adding Verizon as a choice as a long distance carrier in Massachusetts will benefit many Hispanic consumers. From what we've observed firsthand in New York, consumers have reaped substantial cost savings after Verizon entered the market.

I urge you to fully endorse Verizon's long distance application, so consumers in Massachusetts can enjoy the same benefits.

Sincerely,



Lizamarie Cintron
Regional Director

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 11, 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:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Puerto Rican Cultural Center, I wish to endorse Verizon's long distance application in Massachusetts.

As the Commonwealth's only Cultural Center serving the state's largest population of Latinos, our mission is to provide comprehensive and culturally responsive services that promote the general well being of Puerto Ricans and other Spanish speaking people. In addition, we advocate for and represent the interests of Puerto Ricans as well as other Spanish speaking citizens before political bodies.

With more than 200,000 residents of Puerto Rican heritage living in Massachusetts, this state has strong economic, social and community ties to Puerto Rico. Many residents stay in constant contact with friends and family back on the Island of Puerto Rico, which makes them very significant users of long distance telephone services.

Adding Verizon as a choice as a long distance carrier in Massachusetts will benefit many Hispanic consumers. From what we've observed firsthand in New York, consumers have reaped substantial cost savings after Verizon entered the market.

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I urge you to fully endorse Verizon's long distance application, so consumers in Massachusetts can enjoy the same benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Gerena", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Mr. Juan Gerena
Executive Director

cc: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

Cape and Islands United Way

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 10, 2000

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Barnstable Public Schools

Ronald Reed
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National Marine Life Center

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Richard J. Sullivan
Retired Dean

G. Richard Weir
Cape Cod Bank & Trust

Stephen J. Guimond
Immediate Past Chairman

Richard G. Brothers
President

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the president of the Cape and Islands United Way, I have seen first hand just what a positive impact Verizon has on our region of the Bay State. For that reason, and for the added choice it will bring to telecommunications consumers, as a consumer I support Verizon's application to provide long distance service in Massachusetts.

While good corporate citizenship may not be a formal factor in the Commission's deliberation on this matter, it is important to note that Verizon and its employees continually make substantial contributions to the social fabric of our region. Verizon is not simply a company doing business in our community – Verizon is an integral part of our community.

I personally believe Verizon has demonstrated that it deserves to be allowed to participate in the Massachusetts long distance market. Kindly add this earnest expression of support to the record the Commission will review in considering this application.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Brothers
President

C Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Kerry
Rep. Delahunt

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SHEPLEY WOOD PRODUCTS, INC.

216 Thornton Drive Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601 508-862-6200 FAX 508-862-6012

October 10, 2000

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a resident of Cape Cod and a businessperson, I have an appreciation of measures that stimulate the economy while also providing consumers with marketplace alternatives. With this in mind, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of a measure that promises to do both: Verizon's application to provide long distance service in Massachusetts.

My understanding is that Verizon has opened its local network to competition in Massachusetts and that scores of competitive local exchange carriers are serving customers from facilities housed inside Verizon central offices. Fairness, and the 1996 Telecommunications Act, call for allowing Verizon to provide long distance service here in Massachusetts.

Competition is a an important factor in creating and maintaining a vibrant economy and I believe Verizon has demonstrated that it deserves to be allowed to participate in the Massachusetts long distance market. Please convey this expression of support to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Hamilton N. Shepley, President

C Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Kerry

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
12TH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

ROOM 33, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2060
FAX (617) 722-2849
HOME (781) 582-1128

Committees:
Commerce and Labor
Counties
Natural Resources and Agriculture

NAIDA ROSENBERGER
LEGISLATIVE AIDE

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magali Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B-204
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a veteran Massachusetts legislator who appreciates the importance of stimulating the economy and of providing consumers with affordable alternatives in the marketplace, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Verizon's application to provide long distance service in the Bay State.

It is my understanding that Verizon has thoroughly opened its local network to competition in Massachusetts and that scores of competitive local exchange carriers are serving customers from facilities housed inside Verizon central offices. In keeping with the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, fairness calls for Verizon being allowed to provide long distance service in return.

Please include this letter of support for Verizon's application in the record to be considered in this matter. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue

Very truly yours,

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN
State Representative

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UNIVERSITY of
MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON

Office of the Chancellor

100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
617.287.6800
Fax: 617.265.7243

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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:

The University of Massachusetts/Boston was established in 1964 to provide the opportunity for superior education at moderate cost to the people of greater Boston, and it is nationally recognized as a model of excellence for urban universities. In my capacity as Associate Chancellor for School/Community Collaboration, I am writing to encourage your approval of Verizon's application to provide long distance service in Massachusetts.

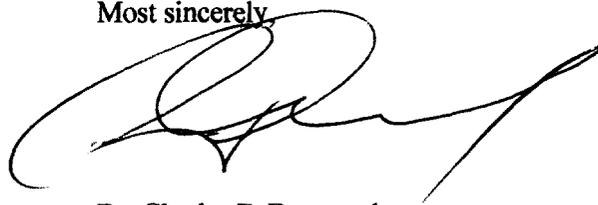
UMass/Boston brings the resources of a major university to a very diverse student body, offering undergraduate and graduate programs in approximately 90 fields of study. As a member of the Greater Boston Urban Education Collaborative, we work to expand services, enrich programming, and contribute more fully to the future development of the community. We are also the higher education partner for Boston's Dorchester High School and, as such, we work closely with Verizon and with school officials to enrich the quality of education for students at that school. In its 30 years of partnership with Dorchester High School, Verizon has demonstrated its commitment to education and to education technology.

It is essential that schools such as Dorchester High School and UMass/Boston have access to state-of-the-art telecommunications services. And it is equally important that the education community be able to afford these services, so that they can take advantage of new education and information tools. In Massachusetts, the local telecommunications market has grown significantly and we feel expanded competition in the long distance market will benefit our institution, the students we serve, as well as the state's economy.

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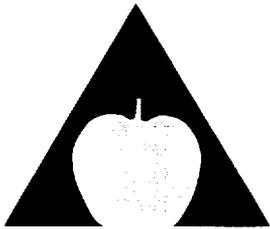
I strongly encourage your support of Verizon's request to enter the long distance market and bring enhanced services to consumers across the state.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Desmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr. Charles F. Desmond

cc: Senator Kennedy
Senator Kerry
Congressman Moakley



Alliance Education

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Promoting an educational vision through:

- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM
- MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM
- SCHOOL ENRICHMENT SHOWCASE

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

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- SCHOOL-TO-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
- SCHOOL-TO-CAREER INITIATIVES
- PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY PROGRAM
- CORPORATE EDUCATION OUTSOURCING

TECHNOLOGY ENGAGEMENT

Promoting educational technology through:

- MEDIA CENTER
- CLASSROOM EDUCATOR PROGRAM
- AMERICORPS
- JASON PROJECT

PUBLIC AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Promoting public engagement strategies through:

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- EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS
- EDUCATION SUMMIT
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ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION
 405 GROVE STREET
 WORCESTER, MA 01605
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 E-MAIL: INFO@ALLFORED.ORG

WEB SITE: WWW.ALLFORED.ORG

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 11, 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-B402 *00-1761*
 Application for Verizon For Authorization Under Section 271
 To Provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Alliance for Education was founded as a non-profit organization in 1985. Our goal is to transform public education so that all schools are highly effective in preparing every child to be a knowledgeable, skillful adult; an informed, responsible citizen; and a productive worker. Through its programs the Alliance impacts over 100,000 teachers, school administrators, students, parents and citizens in more than 95 communities throughout Massachusetts.

Our school-business partnerships are a critical component in helping prepare students for the new economy. For the past several years, the Alliance has teamed with Verizon on a number of school-based educational and technology initiatives. These projects have brought Internet services to the classroom, trained teachers to use new technology, and helped to incorporate technology into many, many lesson plans. As schools and communications technology continue to evolve, Verizon is the kind of partner that will continue to deliver for the educational community.

Having another choice for all communications services, including long distance, Internet, and data services, can't help but provide benefits to schools. As more schools and more teachers integrate technology into their classrooms, the cost -- even with Erate funds -- becomes an important factor in school budgets. The addition of Verizon as a full provider in the long distance and Internet business will help improve prices, service and options for schools. The families of our students, many of whom live under tight economic constraints, will also benefit from simpler, less expensive long distance plans from a company that is an important part of their community.

I unequivocally support Verizon's long distance application for all that it will bring to schools, non-profits and consumers. I hope you will as well.

Sincerely

Harold M. Lane, Jr.
 Executive Director

Cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
 Senator John Kerry
 Congressman James McGovern

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