

October 10, 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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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:

CONQWEST, Inc. is a leading supplier of advanced Internet Security solutions that enable organizations of all sizes to better leverage and control their investments in Internet and related Information Technology.

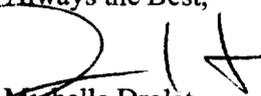
As CONQWEST's CEO, I am very attuned to the impact the Internet has on the economy. As computer technologies continue their rapid advancement, opportunities for economic development abound. We need to provide the right incentives for investment and true competition throughout all areas of Massachusetts, and provide the catalyst for more end-to-end investment in telecommunications infrastructure for *all* regions of Massachusetts.

Today, all of the Internet backbone hubs in Massachusetts are in Boston, which can be very expensive for Internet service providers and users to reach. Additional backbone hubs are needed if we are to take advantage of all the high speed Internet access has to offer.

Verizons' ability to provide long distance and Internet backbone services will promote competition and spur more consumer choice, and provide full Internet access and economic development for all, not just a privileged few.

I believe that a competitive market that includes Verizon as a provider of the full range of telecommunications services would benefit all consumers, particularly Internet users. I look forward to growing competition in both local and long distance telephone services and strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to quickly approve the Verizon application to provide long distance telephone and Internet services.

Always the Best,


Michelle Drolet
CEO
CONQWEST, Inc.

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List A B C D E

Cc: Senator Kennedy
Senator Kerry
Congressman Markey