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Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Ms. Magalie Salas
445 12th Street SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comments in Support of Florida Public Commission Petition

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is being written regarding "DA No. 01-341"/Dkt No. 96-98".

Our company operates a business in Palm Beach County, Florida, and as such we feel very strongly that our County should retain its current area code designation of (561), without an additional overlay. At a minimum the current system should be retained for a three year period, as supported by the Public Service Commission.

Our concerns over instituting a ten-digit "overlay" dialing system in Palm Beach County go beyond the obvious negative economic impact on our business resulting from increased costs in telephone system changes and changes in collateral advertising (both print and media), among others. The concern is a county wide one.

Many small businesses in our community will be unable to bear the costs associated with an overlay system and a therefore a needed economic base will suffer. In addition, our county is has a very large elderly population. These people struggle on a daily basis with the ever increasing technological complexities and the overlay system will only exacerbate their ability to obtain needed products and services. The costs to governmental county operations that will be associated with an overlay system is unknown, but they are sure to mirror or exceed those that will be experienced by the business community. Those public costs will ultimately have to be borne by the residents and business concerns located in the County in the form of increases in taxes.

We believe that alternatives to an overlay system or technological advancements can be realized in the three year period that we urge you to continue to permit Palm Beach County to maintain its current dialing system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Cooper
Executive Vice-President

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