

ALTOONA ▲ BLAIR COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

August 2, 2001

Reply Comments

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: Application by Verizon Pennsylvania Inc. for Authorization To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in State of Pennsylvania, Docket No. 01-138

Dear Ms. Salas:

As an award-winning economic development organization, we are writing to comment on Verizon Pennsylvania and their application to the FCC to offer long distance service in Pennsylvania.

We believe that the revolution in telecommunications that has erupted over the past ten years will proceed at a quickening pace, bringing fundamental changes to the economy. We think this will be a global force for freedom and open markets. We also believe that regulation and economic growth can —and often must — proceed hand-in-hand. In a ferociously competitive market, the price of the data flow must continue to fall. In this new century, odds are good that in the end, every industry will have relatively free access to each other's turf with resulting savings for users in all areas of telecommunications.

Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation would like you to recognize two additional comments that could apply to this Verizon application.

Most importantly, competitive businesses are attracted to and grow in the highest value locations. Pennsylvania, especially the South Central Pennsylvania area, needs help! We need to increase competition, offer real-world choices, eliminate confusion, and offer one-stop shopping for telecommunications service with simplified billing. Pennsylvania, and our area, needs to do those things to remain competitive. Greater choices, better services, greater savings.

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(an equal opportunity creditor)

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Finally, we're certain that we're well into the third age of work – the information age. Horsepower has given way to brainpower. The world's work is being transformed. The best is yet to come. The "best" we refer to will be driven by technology, competition, and you and I as consumers. A near seamless web of telecommunications is developing that will knit business to business, people to people, nation to nation! Better information flow will equal rising real incomes and a freer exchange of knowledge. If Verizon has met both operating systems sufficiently and the requirements of the telecommunication Act – then its time to move forward. Pennsylvania cannot be left out. We want the best of the future for our clients and citizens.

Sincerely,



Martin J. Marasco
President & CEO

MJM/ch

cc: Original & 4 copies to Magalie Roman Salas
J. McNulty (one copy)
K. Trainor (one copy)
ITS (one copy)