

CITY OF WILSON

WILSON, ARK. 72395

MICHAEL E. WILSON
MAYOR

August 27, 2001

OTTO WARHURST
RECORDER/TREAS.

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW- B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket 01-194

Dear Secretary Salas and Commissioners:

I am requesting favorable consideration of Southwestern Bell's request to provide long distance service in Arkansas.

To my knowledge, Southwestern Bell is the only local service provider not allowed to offer long distance service in Arkansas; this is inherently unfair and violates the spirit of deregulation.

The stockholders of Southwestern Bell, most of them out of state, built the telecommunications industry in Arkansas when Arkansas had not the where-with-all to do such itself. To deprive these stockholders the ability to compete in the long distance market on the telecommunications system which they themselves built is tantamount to confiscation. In addition, these stockholders must pay property taxes and franchise taxes on the local telecommunication infrastructure, without which the "legal" long distance providers could not operate. Southwestern Bell is entitled, at least, to an open marketplace.

Respectfully, I ask that the Federal Communications Commission move expeditiously to permit Southwestern Bell to offer long distance service in Arkansas.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Wilson
Mayor