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August 24, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
CY - B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket 01-194

Dear Secretary Salas and Commissioners:

I am writing to ask for your support of Southwestern Bell's application to enter the long distance market in Missouri. I think the entry of another large competitor into the long distance arena here would benefit consumers by bringing down prices and creating more choices.

As a retired educator I am very aware of the needs of the school districts in our area to stretch every dollar as far as possible. Since telecommunications is becoming more important to education, having more companies to choose from that offer local service, long distance service, as well as data and Internet will help educators package the services they need and find the best value.

I also believe that having Southwestern Bell in the long distance business will stimulate the economy in Missouri and provide more jobs for the students that will be graduating from the high schools and colleges in our state.

Please join me in supporting competition, value and opportunity for the school districts and students of Missouri.

Sincerely,


Richard Eichhorst

