

Dillard & Associates

September 7, 2001

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas
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 own a small business in Little Rock, Arkansas and am writing in support of Southwestern Bell's efforts to provide long distance phone service in my community. Government policy makers and regulators tell us that competition is a good thing. We have experienced many changes in order to increase competition. It only seems fair that Southwestern Bell be allowed to compete for long distance service in Arkansas.

I want the option of having one service provider and one phone bill. Like any small business owner, I make decisions based on cost, quality of service, and convenience. I would like to have Southwestern Bell as one of my choices.

I currently serve on two nonprofit boards and see firsthand the kind of corporate citizen Southwestern Bell is. The company has provided support for the Girl Scouts and the Women's Foundation of Arkansas. Each year I am involved in a project that brings together smart eighth grade girls and their teachers from throughout Arkansas to encourage the girls to study math and science. Southwestern Bell has not only provided financial support to make that program possible but their personnel have been involved in making presentations and mentoring these young people. They have taken a leadership role in supporting efforts to improve the education and opportunities of young Arkansans. I think they deserve a great deal of credit for their work as good citizens.

The company is an excellent corporate citizen with company executives and staff involved in a wide array of community activities. I serve on a committee of the Chamber of Commerce which has had one or more Southwestern Bell representatives as a member for as long as I have served. For the past three years, a company employee has served as chair.

Since other companies have entered this market in providing local service and cellular service, it seems only fair to allow Southwestern Bell to compete in the

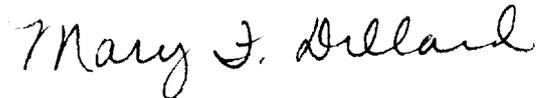
No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

long distance arena. I know that I would like that choice and I believe other business owners would also like that choice.

If competition is a good thing—and I believe that it is—I believe that Southwestern Bell deserves the right to compete.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. Southwestern Bell is an excellent company providing good, reliable service. We as consumers deserve to have them included as a choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary F. Dillard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mary F. Dillard
President