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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Charles J. Fogarty
Lieutenant Governor

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 9, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

01-3241

Dear Chairman Powell:

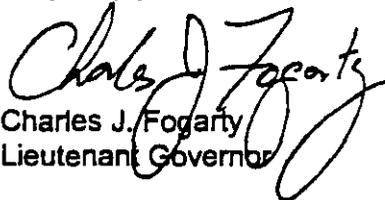
I am writing to express my support for Verizon's application to offer interstate long distance service to Rhode Island consumers.

Recently, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and the United States Justice Department recommended to the Federal Communication Commission that approval be granted to Verizon to sell long distance in Rhode Island. Both agencies reached their decisions after comprehensive investigations, which found that the Rhode Island market is "irreversibly open to competition and in the public interest".

Verizon's entry into the long distance market will benefit Rhode Island's consumers by adding another option of choice to the market. Based on an independent study by the Telecommunications Research and Action Center (TRAC), consumers in New York realized additional savings with choices in both local and long distance services when Verizon entered the New York long distance business approximately two years ago. The incumbent long distance carriers began offering new low rate plans to compete with Verizon's local service, while Verizon offered lower long distance rates. As evidence, consumers of each service are now benefiting with lower telecommunications costs.

It is for these reasons, that I respectfully urge the FCC to approve Verizon's application to enter the Rhode Island long distance market.

Very truly yours,


Charles J. Fogarty
Lieutenant Governor

CJF/laf

CC: Senator Lincoln Chafee
Congressman Patrick Kennedy
Congressman James Langevin
Senator Jack Reed

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