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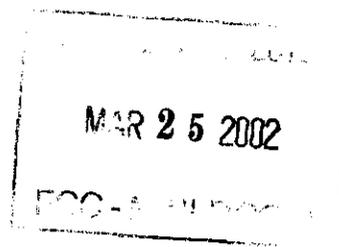
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January 28, 2002

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.-Portals
Washington, D.C. 20554



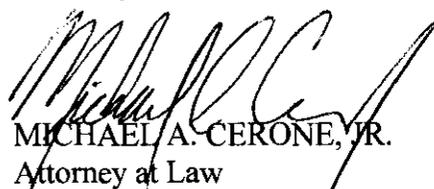
RE: CC Docket No. 01-347

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am forwarding this correspondence in an effort to request FCC support for the Verizon Communications application to begin offering long distance service in the state of New Jersey. As an attorney who has been following the telecommunications industry for quite some time now, I know that the local phone market in New Jersey is open to all competitors and that Verizon has demonstrated to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities that it has met the 14-point checklist specified in the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Long distance relief is a catalyst for competition. Nothing could be better for the telecommunications market in New Jersey than competition. This competition is already taking place in the states which surround New Jersey such as New York and Pennsylvania. Customers in these states are being given choices about their communications dollars and are already saving considerable amounts of money. We in New Jersey **deserve** to be given the same opportunities.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL A. CERONE, JR.
Attorney at Law

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