

ORIGINAL

Communications
Workers of America
District 3
AFL-CIO

Alabama, Florida, Georgia
Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

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October 12, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 200554

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Dear Chairman Powell:

I'd like to recommend that you give favorable consideration to BellSouth's pending application to provide long-distance service in the states of Georgia and Louisiana. I believe that this application clearly meets the public-interest test contained in the 1996 Telecommunication Act.

As Atlanta-based vice president for District 3 of the Communications Workers of America, I have watched closely as BellSouth has painstakingly opened its markets to competition. I feel confident that BellSouth has met the requirements of the Telecommunications Act. I'm also convinced the Georgia and Louisiana public service commissions have thoroughly and rigorously tested BellSouth.

I support BellSouth's application for another reason. While BellSouth and the CWA have differed on some issues, I consider BellSouth a partner. Allowing competition into the local market has certainly had a negative impact on the workforce at BellSouth where workers enjoy good wages and a good benefits package. Approving BellSouth's application to enter long distance would not only benefit the consumer by allowing more competition in the long-distance market, it would also create more good paying jobs in BellSouth. I believe these types of jobs strengthens our local communities and our nation. I am hopeful that BellSouth's entry into long distance will lead to continued growth for the company and continued growth in the good jobs it provides in partnership with the CWA.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Smith
Vice President - District 3
Communications Workers of America

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Communications Workers of America

The Honorable Michel Powell

October 12, 2000

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cc Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
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Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission
Ms. Dorothy Atwood, Chief of Common Carrier, FCC Common Carrier Bureau
Ms. Susan Pie, Paralegal Specialist, FCC Common Carrier Bureau