



April 4, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**In the Matter of:      Nomination for Universal Service Administrative  
Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21  
and 96-45.**

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Competitive Telecommunications Association ("CompTel") to respectfully nominate Thomas M. Koutsky, Vice President, Law and Public Policy, Z-Tel Communications and Jerry Watts, Vice President Government and Industry Affairs, ITC^DeltaCom, for the competitive local exchange carrier representative position on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

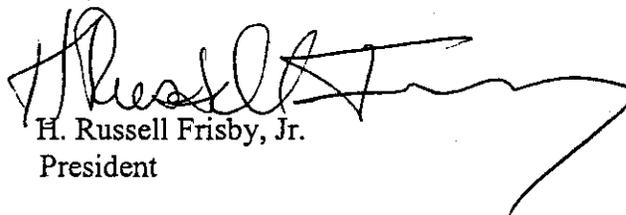
Both Mr. Koutsky and Mr. Watts have substantial knowledge of telecommunications issues, including universal service. Before joining the staffs of two competitive local exchange carriers, Mr. Koutsky served as Senior Attorney in the Competition Division of the Office of General Counsel at the FCC. Mr. Koutsky now works at Z-Tel Communications, where he is responsible for formulating, articulating and executing Z-Tel's regulatory and governmental affairs policy positions at the federal and state levels.

Mr. Watts has more than thirty years experience in the telecommunications industry, where he has been an advocate for pro-competitive public policies at the state and federal level. Currently Mr. Watts is responsible for managing all interactions between ITC^DeltaCom and federal and state regulatory agencies. He also manages regulatory compliance and public policy initiatives.

Both Mr. Koutsky's and Mr. Watts' professional biographies are attached to provide you with additional information regarding their qualifications.

Due to their extensive experience in both public policy and in the competitive telecommunications industry, I highly recommend the nomination of Mr. Koutsky and Mr. Watts for competitive local exchange carrier representation on the USAC Board of Directors. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 296-6650. In the meantime, I appreciate your consideration of CompTel's nominations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Russell Frisby, Jr.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

H. Russell Frisby, Jr.  
President

cc: Accounting Policy Division  
Office of the Secretary

**JERRY WATTS**  
**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY**

Telecommunications industry executive with over thirty years experience. An effective advocate for pro-competitive public policy at the state and federal level. Experience includes advocacy before the congress, state legislatures, the FCC and state public utility commissions. Previously presented policy testimony before state commissions throughout the southeast. Has held leadership positions with several industry and civic organizations.

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**EXPERIENCE**

**ITC^DeltaCom**

**Vice President Government and Industry Affairs 2000-Present**

Company officer with responsibility for managing all federal/state government and industry interface matters. Directs organization responsible for managing regulatory compliance and public policy initiatives as well as facilitating working relationship with other telecommunications industry companies.

**AT&T**

**State Vice President-Government Affairs-Alabama/Mississippi 1998-2000**

Chief AT&T lobbyist and director of governmental affairs for the states of Alabama and Mississippi. Responsible for achieving public policy initiatives at the state and local level to allow AT&T to compete effectively in local, long distance, wireless, cable TV and internet services. Responsible for managing AT&T's community relations programs including grass roots and grass tops initiatives. AT&T liaison with telecommunications and cable TV industry, with responsibility for organizing and managing coalitions. Represents AT&T in trade and civic organizations.

**State Vice President-Government Affairs-Georgia 1998-1999**

Chief AT&T lobbyist and director of governmental affairs for the state of Georgia. Responsible for achieving public policy initiatives at the state and local level to allow AT&T to compete effectively in local, long distance, wireless, cable TV and internet services. Responsible for managing AT&T's community relations programs including grass roots and grass tops initiatives. AT&T liaison with telecommunications and cable TV industry, with responsibility for organizing and managing coalitions. Represents AT&T in trade and civic organizations.

**Regional Director-Regulatory Affairs 1996-1998**

Directed regulatory case and issue management for AT&T's nine state southern region. Developed and implemented strategy to achieve public policy initiatives. Directed case management team comprised of attorneys, expert witnesses, and docket managers. Prepared and presented policy testimony before state regulatory bodies. Directed witness selection, witness preparation and development of regulatory case strategies. Managed region administrative functions with responsibility for budget preparation and tracking, electronic document library and general support services.

**State Director-Government Affairs-Alabama 1992-1996**

Directed all governmental affairs activities throughout the state of Alabama. Chief AT&T lobbyist for the state legislature, state executive branch, state public utility commission, and Alabama's federal delegation. Lobbied extensively in Washington D. C. in conjunction with the Telecommunications Act, FCC non-dominance docket, and AT&T federal government procurement issues. Managed AT&T state and federal PAC contribution recommendations and AT&T's relationship with state political party organizations. Worked extensively with outside political consultants in Alabama and Washington. Acted as AT&T's lead negotiator in forging industry consensus on landmark legislation and regulatory orders. Recognized industry leader positioned as AT&T's senior executive in Alabama.

**Assistant Vice President External Affairs-Alabama/Mississippi 1987-1992**

Directed all AT&T state regulatory and telecommunications industry activities for Alabama and Mississippi. AT&T's chief regulatory lobbyist and industry liaison for Alabama and Mississippi. Developed and executed regulatory plans to achieve net income and public policy objectives. Responsible for AT&T's relationships with local exchange telephone companies including BellSouth and independent companies. Chaired inter-entity council responsible for coordinating all AT&T stakeholder strategies. AT&T's chief negotiator for resolving regulatory and operational issues with government and industry officials.

**District Manager-Regulatory Affairs 1983-1987**

Directed regulatory case and issue management for five states (Al, Ky, La, Ms, Tn ). Developed and implemented regulatory plans to achieve net income and public policy objectives. Led case management teams dealing with all regulatory issues including rate cases, tariff approvals and regulatory policy cases.

**SOUTH CENTRAL BELL/BELLSOUTH**

**Special Representative 1979-1983**

South Central Bell's chief lobbyist for the Alabama Public Service Commission staff. Responsible for regulatory and executive complaints, rural construction reviews, extended area service projects and rate case support. Primary company contact with the Commission Consumer Affairs Department and Engineering Division.

**District Supervisor-Residence Marketing 1977-1979**

Managed district with one hundred fifty employees. Responsibilities included staffing, training, performance management and labor relations. Directed management team of three managers and twelve supervisors. District operations included service order production, sales, collections and three Phone Center retail stores.

**Unit Manager-Residence Marketing 1971-1977**

Managed business office with fifty service representatives and five supervisors. Responsible for sales and collections for sixty thousand accounts.

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**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; Accounting major; Auburn University, 1971**

**Executive Education:**

AT&T's Advanced Management Program; AT&T Learning Center, Basking Ridge, N. J.  
Operations of the Federal Government; Brookings Institution; Washington, D. C.  
Advanced Management Program in Telecommunications; University of Southern California  
The Executive Program; University of Georgia  
Rate Case Management; Arthur Andersen; LLP

## AFFILIATIONS

### Previous:

The Alabama-Mississippi Telephone Association; Board Member  
The Alabama Interexchange Carriers Association; Founding President  
Georgia Telephone Association; Board Member  
Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology (GCATT); Board Member  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce; Member Governmental Affairs Committee  
Business Council of Alabama  
Alabama Industry and Manufacturers Association  
The Cahaba Exchange Club; President  
The Alabama Arthritis Foundation; Board Member  
The Rotary Club of Atlanta, Georgia

### Current:

The Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association; Officer/Executive Committee  
The Rotary Club of Birmingham, Alabama



## **BIOGRAPHY: THOMAS M. KOUTSKY**

Thomas M. Koutsky has been Vice President, Law and Public Policy for Z-Tel Communications, Inc. since May 2001. In this position, he is responsible for formulating, articulating and executing Z-Tel's regulatory and governmental affairs policy positions at the federal and state levels. His primary responsibilities are to foster a public policy environment that supports competitive entry, thereby ensuring Z-Tel's ability to provide its consumers a choice in local phone service. Tom is also actively involved in developing Z-Tel's strategic business relationships with other carriers and companies.

Prior to joining Z-Tel, Tom was Assistant General Counsel for Covad Communications Company. In that position, he shaped and developed Covad's positions on the deployment of advanced telecommunications services and the importance of vigilant enforcement of the 1996 Act. While at Covad, Tom spearheaded industry efforts to reform collocation policy and obtain unbundled access to line sharing.

From 1994-97, Tom served at the FCC, most recently Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Competition Division. In that capacity, Tom participated actively in FCC decisions that implemented key provisions of the 1996 Act, including the Section 251 unbundling rules, the initial Section 254 Universal Service orders, access charge reform, the "first wave" of Bell company mergers, and the first two FCC "271" decisions.

Tom has taken an active role in educating regulators and members of the public on the importance of competitive telecommunications entry to economic development and consumer choice. He has made several dozen presentations before NARUC, industry trade groups, the ADSL Forum, town hall meetings, and delegations of foreign regulators and journalists.

Tom received his Juris Doctorate with Honors from the University of Chicago Law School in 1991. In 1988, Tom received a B.A. with Highest University Honors from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois.