



SoftSwitch
Communications, Inc.

June 28, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98, 98-147,
02-33, 95-20, 98-10

Dear Ms. Dortch:

SoftSwitch Communications, Inc. is a small Texas CLEC that was formed almost two years ago to provide voice and data services to small and medium size businesses that could not otherwise afford these services. We deliver these services from our data center to our customers over broadband T-1 lines that we buy from El Paso Global Networks (EPGN). It is because we're able to buy these lines at a reasonable price that we're able to offer our customers not only local and long distance phone service but also other services such as unified messaging to their desktop computers, and high-speed internet access. Our next generation Centrex-type service is possible from the integration of several different hardware/software products and is something that no other ILEC has come close to providing up to this point. Our current customers are delighted with the cost savings and functionality that we provide them -- and all of this with a bill that is actually readable and organized the way our customers want it (i.e. by person and by department, etc.).

SoftSwitch is privately funded and does not have the millions or billions of outside investment or debt that other CLECs have. However, we don't need this money to grow responsibly and build our business by saving other businesses money and providing them functionality that they can't get elsewhere. None of this would be possible without continued access to the ILEC copper and fiber infrastructure at a reasonable price. EPGN has spent the time and invested over 500 million dollars in deployment of a transport network by collocating in the ILEC central offices, placing its own fiber and utilizing UNE dark fiber from the ILEC. This alternative transport network allows smaller Texas CLECs, such as SoftSwitch, to creatively offer competitive alternatives to the citizens of Texas while avoiding large up front costs themselves. Without this pre-built, ubiquitous, reasonably priced, competitive transport network, small CLECs would not have the ability to get into the telecommunication business. Nobody has ever heard of SoftSwitch (yet) but we are certainly the type of business that was made possible by the 1996 Telecom Act and our customers would strongly attest to the benefits that we have given them.

Sincerely,

D. Sumner Chase, III
President