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JUL 5 2002

Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

June 24, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of Western Kentucky University, I am writing to express our support of BellSouth's petition (WC Docket No. 02-150) to sell long distance service in the state of Kentucky. BellSouth's entry into the long distance market would facilitate the rapidly growing competition that already exists in that industry.

Access to efficient long distance service is critical to the teaching, research, and service functions of a major university. With the advances in computers and network technology, communications is becoming a more significant cost in our business than ever before. Increased competition in both the long distance and local service markets will reduce rates and improve overall service. We need the same benefits realized in the seven states where the FCC has already allowed full competition.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has unanimously affirmed that BellSouth has met all of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and should be allowed to sell long distance service. The benefits of Bell competition in other states have already proven to be significant. Therefore, I support the Commission's prompt approval of BellSouth's 271 petition.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Ransdell
President

GAR:lf

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List ABCDE

- xc: Representative Ron Lewis
- Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
- Commissioner Michael Copps
- Commissioner Kevin Martin
- ✓ Marlene Dortch, Secretary FCC
- Dorothy Atwood, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
- Susan Pie, Wireline Competition Bureau

