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JUL 12 2002

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STATE of SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLIE CONDON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Office of the Attorney General
Columbia 29211

July 9, 2002

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

I appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments in support of the above-referenced application. I have learned that BellSouth has filed its second application with the FCC to provide long distance service in South Carolina. As you may recall, my office supported BellSouth's earlier petition and we fully endorse this filing as well.

I believe that encouraging competition and developing competitive markets should be the strong preference of public policy over policies that continue pervasive regulatory frameworks over time. With regard to telecommunications markets in South Carolina, I support the goal of moving all telecommunications markets toward competition as quickly as possible consistent with federal policy.

Five years ago the Public Service Commission of South Carolina unanimously supported BellSouth's entry into long distance believing it to be in the best interest of our citizens. Last year, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina again unanimously voted in favor of BellSouth getting into long distance. Today, the evidence is even more persuasive that allowing BellSouth to participate in the long distance market will bring substantial benefits to South Carolinians.

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It is my position that BellSouth's application should be granted. The company has proven that it has addressed the FCC's primary concerns with its previous petition in South Carolina. It has invested a substantial amount of capital and resources in opening up its local market. The hearing at the Public Service Commission of South Carolina allowed positions by all interested parties to be presented and there was no persuasive evidence that should keep the long distance market in South Carolina closed to BellSouth.

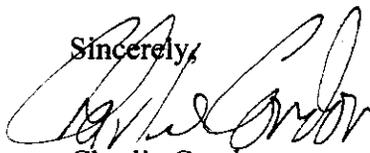
Some of BellSouth's potential long distance competitors have claimed that if BellSouth is allowed to provide long distance service in South Carolina that BellSouth will then be able to engage in anti-competitive behavior. Let me assure you that my office stands ready to pursue fully any allegation of anti-competitive acts by any company in South Carolina. Additionally, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina has approved a comprehensive measurement plan and associated financial penalties that will apply to BellSouth in order to prevent any backsliding once BellSouth enters the long distance business.

I believe that BellSouth's entry into long distance will provide competition in the South Carolina long distance market and should reduce long distance rates, especially for consumers and small business customers. In addition, I believe opening up the long distance market to BellSouth will encourage the long distance carriers to provide local service to consumers. I believe that competition in the local service market will not fully develop if there is no incentive to compete for local residential customers and to make facilities investments in South Carolina.

In summary, it appears that there are substantial legal and policy reasons that BellSouth's application should be granted. I believe that it is in the public interest for the State of South Carolina that the FCC issue a favorable decision.

Let me know if I can be of assistance to this process in any way.

Sincerely,



Charlie Condon

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Michael Copp
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Magalie Salas, FCC Secretary
Dorothy Attwood, Common Carrier Bureau Chief
Susan Pie, Common Carrier Bureau



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

ORIGINAL

July 8, 2002

RECEIVED & INSPECTED
JUL 12 2002
FCC - MAILROOM

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

RE: WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

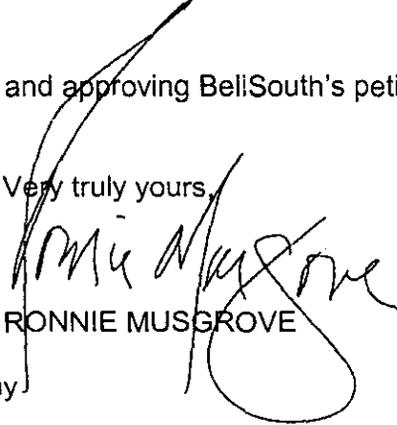
I support the approval of BellSouth's 271 petition to provide competitive long distance service in Mississippi and ask for your approval of that petition. I understand BellSouth has been working with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure the company has met its obligations to provide a level playing field for competitors.

Competition in the telecommunications industry has arrived, yet BellSouth is prohibited from competing with companies that offer the full spectrum of communication services. Competitors are able to offer an attractive, bundled package of services, while BellSouth is not.

I believe the time has arrived for Mississippians to have the opportunity to choose long distance services from the telecommunications provider of their choice. Mississippians should have a real choice for long distance service. Not only would BellSouth's entry into the market offer consumers that choice, but also it would provide a cost savings, especially for people who do not make enough long distance calls to benefit from volume discounts offered by the current long distance companies.

Please consider taking the next step and approving BellSouth's petition for entry into the long distance market.

Very truly yours,


RONNIE MUSGROVE

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary
Dorothy Attwood, Wireline Competition Bureau Chief
Susan Plé, Wireline Competition Bureau – Room 5-C224

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July 10, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC DOCKET NO. 02-150

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in support of BellSouth's application to provide long distance service to the citizens of South Carolina. I understand BellSouth's application is under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission, and I join the South Carolina Public Service Commission in recommending its approval.

Clemson University is the land-grant research institution in South Carolina, and we have extension offices in every county of the state. As such, we understand the need for enhanced services of all types in rural areas. Allowing BellSouth into the long distance market will help create additional competition, and that will be good for all citizens, especially those in rural areas.

Approving BellSouth's application to offer long distance service to customers in South Carolina should be good for the people of this state, and I respectfully urge you to act favorably on BellSouth's request. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,



James F. Barker, FAIA
President

- cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
- Commissioner Michael J. Copps
- Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
- Marlene H. Dortch ✓
- Dorothy Attwood
- Susan Pié

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