

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

ORIGINAL



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MIKE MOORE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ORIGINAL

July 2, 2002

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

RE: WC Docket Number 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

This letter comes in support of BellSouth's filing with the FCC to enter the long distance telephone service market.

As the Attorney General for the State of Mississippi, I see telecommunications as vital to the growth of our state. Just as others are now competing with BellSouth in the local telecommunications market, competition will have a positive effect on the overall development and accessibility of the long distance market. I expect BellSouth will bring the same level of reliability and credibility to their long distance service that customers have learned to expect and depend upon with the company's local telecommunications services.

BellSouth is a company that emphasizes customer service, offers flexible products, services and pricing schedules, and has a reputation of rock-solid stability. At this particular stage in the American economy, we need financially strong, well-capitalized, innovative, and stable companies.

I look for BellSouth to offer competitive pricing for their long distance services and to introduce new products and services that will address my personal needs as well as the changing telecommunications requirements of Mississippians.

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List ABCDE

Mr. Powell  
July 2, 2002  
Page 2

I urge you to take the next step and approve BellSouth's petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Moore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Moore  
Attorney General

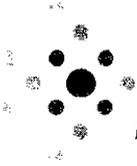
MM/nke

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 Pie', Wireline Competition Bureau - Room 5-C224

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JUL 1 02002  
FCC - MAILROOM

700 North State Street, Suite 300A  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202  
601.960.3610 • FAX 601.960.3605  
www.technologyalliance.ms



Mississippi **Technology Alliance**

July 3, 2002

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WC Docket Number 02-150

Dear Commissioners:

As President/CEO of two companies, Institute for Technology Development (ITD) and the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA), I communicate frequently with economic development agencies and councils throughout the state, as well as large companies that either conduct business or are looking to do business in Mississippi.

As a result, I am familiar with the interLATA long distance petition BellSouth recently filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as well as, the impact their ability to offer long distance service in Mississippi means to the economy of this state. It is this latter point that I wish to address.

Most of the benefits of recent long distance price reductions in Mississippi have gone to very large users of the service. Small businesses such as ITD and MTA, which provide most of the employment in the state and offer the largest opportunity for growth in the future of Mississippi, have seen very little in the way of cost savings and have to deal with the confusion of multiple providers. The average small business has been left by the wayside.

The business community of Mississippi believes that once BellSouth enters the long distance business, other companies will lower their long distance rates for all consumers in an effort to compete. As the cost of local and long distance service in Mississippi decreases, the opportunity to attract businesses to relocate into our state increases. Allowing BellSouth to provide a competitive service will also spur economic development.

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Page 2  
July 3, 2002

Finally, I believe it is important to encourage a business to grow, especially one that already has a strong local presence. Bellsouth is one of the largest taxpayers in Mississippi, as well as one of our largest employers. The company is an outstanding corporate citizen in every community it serves. BellSouth's active and retired employees are involved in numerous community endeavors and contribute thousands of volunteer hours each year to projects throughout the state.

It is my hope that the FCC will approve BellSouth's petition for long distance. Not only will their entry into the market bring savings to businesses in Mississippi but also it will provide an economic incentive needed by our state.

Sincerely,



Angeline G. Dvorak  
President/CEO

Cc: **Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary**  
Dorothy Attwood, Wireline Competition Bureau Chief  
Susan Pie, Wireline Competition Bureau, Room 5-C224



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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
THE SENATE  
COLUMBIA

GLENN F. McCONNELL  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

P.O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
TELEPHONE : (803) 212-6610

JOHN P. HAZZARD, V  
COUNSEL TO  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

July 1, 2002

**WC DOCKET NO. 02-150**

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to respectfully recommend approval of BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to the citizens of South Carolina. Increased competition in both the long distance market and local market can only continue to improve the availability of telecommunications services to all South Carolinians, an imperative goal if South Carolina is to flourish economically. I am convinced that BellSouth's entry into the long distance market will speed up that availability.

I have been following the progress made by BellSouth in opening its local markets and reports of the benefits enjoyed by customers in states with long-distance approval. South Carolinians wish to have the same advantage that citizens in other states are enjoying. Our citizens responded overwhelmingly - over 80% - when asked if BellSouth should be allowed into the long distance market.

Allowing BellSouth to offer long distance service to customers in South Carolina is good for the state's economic health, and it is good for all citizens. For those reasons, I respectfully ask that you give timely and favorable consideration to BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in the Palmetto State.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. With warmest regards, I am.

Sincerely,

Glenn F. McConnell  
President Pro Tempore and Chairman Senate Judiciary Committee

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cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary – FCC  
Ms. Dorothy Atwood, Chief – Wireline Competition Bureau  
Ms. Susan Pie

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**The House of Representatives**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HOUSE

P.O. BOX 11867

Columbia 29211

(803) 734-3065

July 2, 2002



ORIGINAL



DOUGLAS JENNINGS, JR.  
DISTRICT 54

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

WC DOCKET NO. 02-150

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to request that the FCC approve BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to the citizens of South Carolina. Experience has demonstrated that in those states where Bell companies have been authorized to provide long distance service, competition has increased both in the local market and for long distance service. That BellSouth be allowed to offer long distance service to customers in South Carolina is good for the state's economic health, and it is good for my constituents.

I have observed as BellSouth has opened its local markets to competition in South Carolina and at the same time, they have continued their strong investment in improving access to telecommunications for all South Carolinians. My own hometown of Bennettsville has BellSouth's FastAccess Internet service thanks to their commitment to closing the digital divide. Their efforts are particularly appreciated in rural under-served areas such as my hometown county (Marlboro County). Increased competition in both the long distance market and local market can only continue to improve the availability of digital services to all South Carolinians.

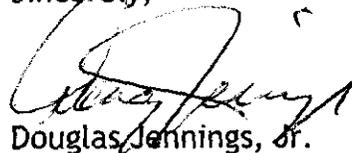
I am eager for South Carolina's citizens to begin taking advantage of the savings in local and long distance that the next level of competition will bring if BellSouth's application is approved. For those reasons, I respectfully ask that you give favorable consideration to BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in South Carolina.

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The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman  
July 2, 2002  
Page Two

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Jennings, Jr.", written over a faint, illegible background.

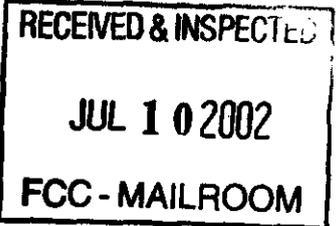
Douglas Jennings, Jr.  
South Carolina House Minority Leader

DJ:JR;cbd

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary - FCC  
Ms. Dorothy Atwood, Chief - Wireline Competition Bureau  
Ms. Susan Pie

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
*Federation Center of the Blind*

(Formerly Aurora Center of the Blind)  
119 S. Kilbourne Rd, Columbia, SC 29205  
Phone: 803 254-3777 Fax: 803 252-5655  
E-Mail: [nfbcs@sc.rr.com](mailto:nfbcs@sc.rr.com) Web Page: <http://www.nfbcs.org>



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July 1, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-1-50

Dear Chairman Powell:

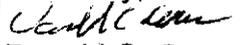
As founder and President Emeritus of the Federation Center of the Blind, I am writing to ask that you consider BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in South Carolina.

I have read reports about the benefits enjoyed by customers in other states with long-distance approval. I am eager to see citizens in South Carolina enjoy the same benefits, particularly the blind. Many blind citizens are on a limited income and depend upon telecommunications for their day-to-day activities and safety. BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market will lower costs and provide more choices. Also, it will enable the blind to enjoy one-stop shopping, a service that they need and would enjoy.

I have had the pleasure of being involved with BellSouth in several consumer forums over the past several years and have always respected their desire to provide top quality service to all of their customers. In addition, I have been on the receiving end of many dedicated hours of volunteerism provided by the BellSouth Pioneer Volunteer Organization. They have been involved for over twenty years in providing meals for our monthly meetings at the Federation Center of the Blind, supporting beep ball games to blind children in our state, repairing various talking book machines and participating in various fundraising activities.

I strongly recommend that the Federal Communications Commission approve BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

  
Donald C. Capps  
Founder

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cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Magolie Salas, FCC Secretary  
Dorothy Attwood, Common Carrier Bureau Chief  
Susan Prie, Common Carrier Bureau - Room 5-C-224

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**Pikeville**  
**COLLEGE**



July 2, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of Pikeville College, I am writing to express our support of BellSouth's petition to sell long distance service in Kentucky. BellSouth's entry into the long distance market will undoubtedly increase competition in the long distance market, which will be good for consumers in Kentucky, including Pikeville College.

As a private college, we must work hard to contain costs and provide the best service to our students with the resources available. As we incorporate the latest technology in our institution, from internet access in all our dorm rooms to telemedicine and distance learning for our medical school, communications costs have become a very significant portion of our budget. Increased competition in long distance and local service will help reduce rates and improve service. As a rural region, we need the Commission to encourage more competition so we may be on a level playing field with urban areas, where communications costs are much lower.

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

Very truly yours,

Harold H. Smith  
President

Cc: Congressman Hal Rogers  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC  
Dorothy Atwood, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Susan Pie, Wireline Competition Bureau

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Changing our world...



one graduate at a time.

**-North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 27862 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7862

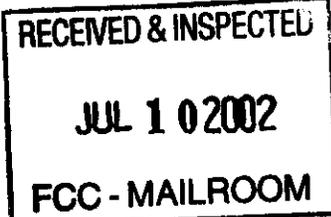
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July 3, 2002

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC Docket No. 02-150



Dear Chairman Powell:

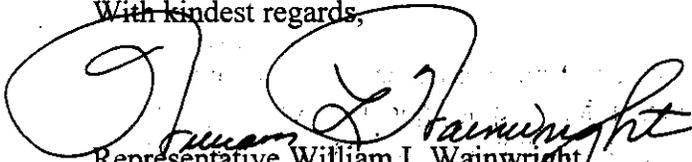
We, the members of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, do respectfully recommend approval of BellSouth's application to provide long distance service to the citizens of our state.

Their entry into long distance will spur competition and lower prices within the industry. According to an editorial supporting BellSouth's long distance entry in the *Wilmington Journal*, African Americans spend \$10 billion annually on phone services. The fact that consumers in North Carolina lose \$1.4 million every day that BellSouth is not in long distance is of great concern to the Caucus.

Telephone customers of any ethnicity will be the immediate beneficiaries of BellSouth's entry into long distance by realizing a reduction in their long distance rates; having a new choice of long distance service providers; and having the ability to select one company that offers one-stop-shopping for their telephone needs.

As members of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, we believe in the power of equality and the benefits of having a level field upon which to play. Therefore, we urge you to rule in favor of BellSouth's long distance application so that the company can continue to be a good corporate citizen and neighbor, and so that our communities can reap the benefits of competition.

With kindest regards,

  
Representative William L. Wainwright  
Chairman, NC Legislative Black Caucus

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
✓ Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC  
Dorothy Attwood, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Susan Pie

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Lexington, KY 40507-3700  
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Fax 859-323-3703  
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Kentucky League of Cities

June 24, 2002

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The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Subject: Docket No. 02-150

BellSouth recently filed a petition to sell long distance service in the state of Kentucky. Based on all the information I have read and heard, I believe that petition should be approved. Kentucky's city governments are large users of telecommunications services and I know that they would benefit from increased competition in long distance.

It made sense to have some restrictions in place when AT&T and the Bell companies split up in 1984. But there can be no doubt, 18 years later that the entire telecommunications market is intensely competitive. Open most telephone directories and you will find a dozen or more local service vendors. In Kentucky, 20 percent of the business market is already non-Bell, as well as over 70 percent of the high-speed Internet market. It is time now to clear the last obstacle to full competition; allow BellSouth to use its expertise and resources to improve overall rates and service throughout the industry.

While city governments in the Commonwealth purchase telecommunications services from several vendors, we would like the choice of considering BellSouth for our long distance needs. The ability to bundle long distance with other services will give BellSouth the ability to offer customers lower overall communications rates.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia L. Lovely*  
Sylvia L. Lovely  
Executive Director/CEO

- cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
- Commissioner Michael Copps
- Commissioner Kevin Martin
- Magalie Salas, Secretary FCC
- Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC
- Dorothy Atwood, Chief, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
- Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

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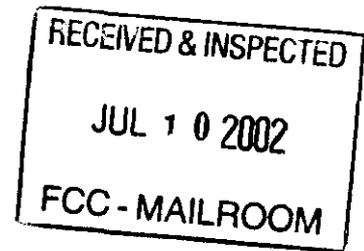


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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

July 2, 2002



WC DOCKET NO. 02-150

Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

South Carolina is one of the first four states in the country to connect all K-12 schools to the Internet thanks to BellSouth's partnership with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina General Assembly, and South Carolina Educational Television. South Carolina was the first state in the country to have all public libraries connected to the Internet. This year, BellSouth expanded its high-speed Internet access technology to reach the majority of its customers. This broadband deployment is enhancing distance-learning opportunities while bridging the digital divide in our state.

BellSouth is committed to improving the quality of education and life in our state. Citizens are seeing reduced costs and bundled services in states where the FCC has approved the local Bell Company getting into the long distance market. Lower costs, bundled services, and one-stop shopping will help advance high-speed telecommunication services into the homes of teachers and students.

I urge you, on behalf of the teachers and students in South Carolina, to consider BellSouth's entry in the long distance market. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Inez Tenenbaum  
State Superintendent of Education

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

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