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North Carolina General Assembly  
House of Representatives  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh 27601-1096

REPRESENTATIVE RONALD L. SMITH  
4TH DISTRICT

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June 24, 2002

COMMITTEES:

- APPROPRIATIONS
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
- EDUCATION
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- INSURANCE
- LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING
- MILITARY, VETERANS & INDIAN AFFAIRS
- PUBLIC UTILITIES - CHAIR
- WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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

WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Commissioners:

As members of the Public Utilities Committee of the North Carolina House of Representatives, we are respectfully writing in support of BellSouth's application to provide InterLATA long distance service in North Carolina.

It is our belief that approval of the application by the FCC is in the public interest in North Carolina and will provide competitive stimulation in both the local and long distance telecommunications markets.

BellSouth employs 8,000 people and provides local telephone service to about half the telephone customers in our state. The company is an excellent corporate citizen and invests \$1 billion every three years in North Carolina to maintain a state-of-the art network. The remainder of the state is served by about 20 other incumbent providers, such as Sprint, Verizon and ALLTEL, which can already provide both local and long distance service to their customers.

BellSouth has indicated to the state Utilities Commission that it has spent nearly \$2 billion to implement systems and processes to assure competitors can compete in North Carolina. That seems to be paying off. More than 80 competitors now serve 340,000 lines in the state. Of those, 40 those companies even have their equipment in BellSouth's central offices.

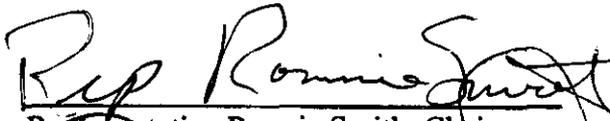
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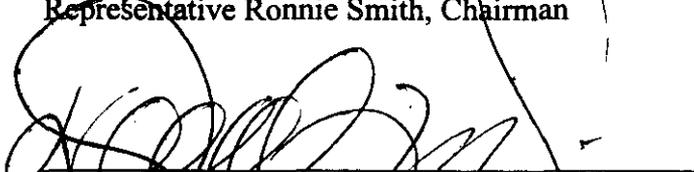


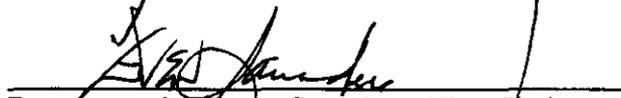
Most of this competition, however, is in the business marketplace. We hope BellSouth's entry into the long distance market will stimulate competition in local residential markets in North Carolina, as the FCC indicates has happened in other states like Texas and New York, resulting in substantial savings to consumers of the state.

North Carolina has demonstrated leadership in bringing our citizens competition in telecommunications markets. The General Assembly opened markets with passage of HB161 in 1995, preceding the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We believe approving BellSouth's long distance application constitutes one more step in opening up the telecommunications market in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Representative Ronnie Smith, Chairman

  
Representative Danny McComas, Vice Chairman

  
Representative Drew Saunders, Vice Chairman

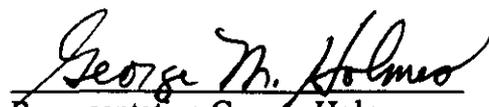
  
Representative Harold Brubaker

  
Representative Lorene Coates

  
Representative Bill Culpepper

  
Representative Zeno Edwards

  
Representative Robert Grady

  
Representative George Holmes

*Bill Hurley*  
Representative Bill Hurley

*Eugene M. Combs*  
Representative Eugene McCombs



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAUL E. PATTON  
GOVERNOR

UNINSPECTED  
JUL 15 2002  
702-564-2517

700 CAPITOL AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
FAX: (502) 564-2517

June 26, 2002

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

RE: Docket Number WC.02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to approve BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to Kentucky consumers. I have followed BellSouth's progress in opening its local markets, as well as reports of lower price benefits consumers have enjoyed in other states that have gained long-distance approval. The Kentucky Public Service Commission, after a very thorough process, has concluded that BellSouth has met the requirements in Kentucky for unrestricted access to the long-distance telephone market. I believe Kentucky consumers should have the opportunity to choose BellSouth as a provider for this service.

One of my primary initiatives since being elected Governor has been to build and improve the technological infrastructure in the state so that Kentucky will be a contender in the global economy. BellSouth has a strong history of partnering with this office in order to bring technology of the highest caliber to all customers in their serving area.

Local competition exists and is increasing in Kentucky. I believe the evidence I have seen indicates that BellSouth has been diligent in its efforts to ensure compliance of the 14-Point Checklist items, and that it is now time to allow them entry into the highly competitive long-distance market.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Patton

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*Trimble County Fiscal Court*

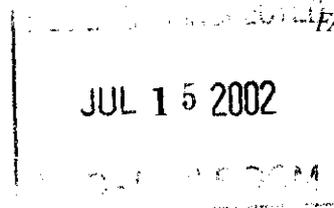
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OFFICE OF THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

RAY CLEM  
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

P.O. BOX 251  
BEDFORD, Ky 40006  
(502) 255-7196  
FAX (502) 255-4618

June 27, 2002



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

Re: Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

BellSouth recently filed a request to offer long-distance service in Kentucky. Based on all the information I have heard and read, I believe the request should be approved.

In other states where a former Bell company has been allowed to compete in the long-distance market, competition has increased – and rates have decreased. In addition, consumers have the option to purchase all their communication services from one company and get one bill. There's no question in my mind that these consumers are benefiting from increased competition, and it's time that we in Kentucky enjoyed those same benefits. I believe the citizens and leadership of Trimble County would be supportive of BellSouth's efforts to bring competitive long-distance service to our area.

I also want to add that BellSouth has been an excellent corporate citizen in our community. In addition to corporate contributions and community involvement, BellSouth employees volunteer hundreds of hours of community service.

BellSouth has earned the right to compete on the same level as other communications companies in the state.

Sincerely,

Ray Clem  
County Judge/Executive

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Magalie Salas, Secretary FCC

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ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

RE: WC Docket Number 02-150

I am writing on behalf of the 3,000 members of the Alabama Retail Association (ARA). ARA is a statewide non-profit association which was formed in 1943. Our membership is composed of both independent merchants and national companies who retail food, clothing, furniture and other general merchandise. The combined sales of ARA members account for over 75% of traditional retail sales in Alabama.

Retailers, perhaps more than any other segment of business and industry, understand the impact of competition on prices and choices. Retailers exist in a world of intense competition pressures.

That is why we believe the FCC should approve the application of **BellSouth** to provide expanded long distance service. We believe this would be beneficial to retailers and consumers alike by providing new choices and competitive prices.

Sincerely,

Charles McDonald  
President

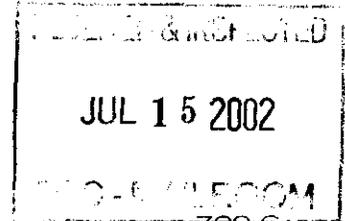
cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Capps  
Commission Kevin J. Martin  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC  
Dorothy Attwood, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Susan Pie'

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAUL E. PATTON  
GOVERNOR



700 CAPITAL AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
FAX: (502) 564-2517

June 26, 2002

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Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

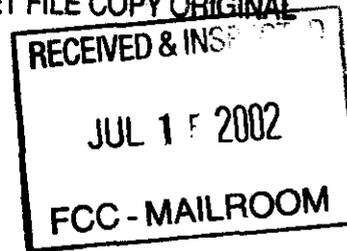
Paul E. Patton

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02.150

ANDREW A. SORENSEN  
PRESIDENT

July 10, 2002

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I serve as president of the University of South Carolina and I am respectfully requesting that the Federal Communications Commission approve BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in South Carolina. Chartered in 1801, USC serves 34,693 students on eight campuses. Telecommunications is critical to the success of The University.

I believe that BellSouth should be allowed in the long distance business because it will increase competition in both the local and long distance markets. More competition means better prices, improved service, and more telecommunication choices for USC. Our students benefit when we keep expenses down. And, students benefit when they have more choices for their telecommunications service provider,

I offer my strong support for more competitions in the long distance market and urge you to make this a reality by allowing BellSouth into the long distance market.

Sincerely Yours,

Andrew A. Sorensen

gsf

c: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Marlene H. Dortch ✓  
Dorothy Attwood  
Susan Pie'

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