



Kentucky League of Cities

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June 24, 2002

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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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