



City of Charleston
Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor

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July 2, 2002 JUL 18 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-150

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Chairman:

I am writing to you in support of BellSouth's filing with the Federal Communications Commission to enter the long distance market in South Carolina. I believe that it is in the best interest of Charlestonians and South Carolinians that the FCC approves BellSouth's filing.

Telecommunications is critical to the growth of Charleston. The changing telecommunications requirements of the city dictate that we have as many options available as possible so we can construct the best telecommunications infrastructure to meet our needs. I have seen the positive impact that competition has had on the overall development and accessibility of telecommunications in this community. I believe it is time to allow BellSouth to compete for the long distance market, just as others are now competing with BellSouth in the local telecommunications market. The city, businesses and citizens will reap the benefits of competitive pricing, new products and services, creative bundling of services, and more competition.

I look forward to BellSouth becoming a full player in the telecommunications industry. I encourage you to endorse BellSouth's application to get into long distance.

Most sincerely yours,

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor, City of Charleston

JPR,jr/rd



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P.O. Box 652 Charleston, South Carolina 29402
843-577-6970 Fax 843-720-3327

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Magalie Salas, Secretary, FCC ✓
Dorothy Attwood, Common Carrier Bureau Chief
Susan Pie, Common Carrier Bureau, Room 5 C224



Amy Tuck
Lieutenant Governor

July 1, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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. Not only would BellSouth's entry into the market offer consumers that choice, but also it should 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.

Sincerely,

Amy Tuck
Lieutenant Governor

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 Pié, Wireline Competition Bureau - Room 5-C224

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Galt House

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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JUL 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thomas T. O'Hearn, CHA
Manager

July 12, 2002

re: WC Docket No.02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Manager of the Galt House Hotel, a 1300 room property in Louisville, I am seeking your support in approving WC Docket No.02-150 BellSouth's petition to offer long distance services in Kentucky and four other states.

BellSouth, in my view, needs to be a participant in Kentucky long distance business. Our Hotel, at the present time, cannot consider BellSouth as a long distance provider. The FCC approval of WC Docket No.02-150 would allow me to have a wider choice for both my Hotel and home long distance services.

The direct result of competition, in my view, is more options and the ability for prices to be lowered. This would be very favorable to my business as it would result in a direct bottom-line increase from long distance revenues.

I ask you to vigorously support WC Docket No.02-150 and allow BellSouth to become active in the Kentucky market as a long distance provider. I am available to answer any inquiries you have with regard to this letter, and I thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Best Personal Regards,

Thomas T. O'Hearn
Thomas T. O'Hearn, CHA
Manager

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

cc: Representative Anne Meagher Northup
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Dorothy Attwood, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
**The Chamber of Commerce
and Industry, Inc.**

June 21, 2002

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

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2002
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

BellSouth has submitted an application to provide long distance service in the state of Kentucky. I am writing to inform you that the Owensboro-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports that application and urges you to approve it.

With BellSouth's resources and reputation, they will be able to provide significant competition to AT&T, Sprint and MCI, who currently control 85% of the long distance market. In other states, like New York, long distance rates have already fallen by as much as 32% when the Bell company was allowed to compete. Not only has long distance competition increased in these other states, but competition for local service also increased. This is a real win-win situation for consumers.

A recent economic study projected that Kentucky consumers will save as much as \$235 million annually once BellSouth is allowed to compete in the long distance market. Kentucky desperately needs this economic boost. We cannot risk falling behind other states in our region. We respectfully request your prompt approval of BellSouth's petition to compete in the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Fred Reeves
Interim CEO-Owensboro Chamber/Industry, Inc.

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

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JUL 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 2, 2002

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

RE: WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

I want you to know that I very much support BellSouth's desire to begin providing long distance service in Kentucky, and in fact throughout its southeastern service area. The Kentucky Public Service Commission has given its approval for BellSouth to offer long distance here, but now your agency's additional approval is required.

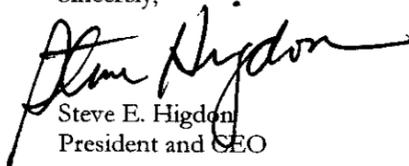
As you review your current caseload, I urge you to give speedy approval to SC Docket No. 02-150. I'm told this is the FCC filing number assigned to BellSouth's filing for Kentucky long distance service.

I know some people still seem to think that BellSouth is some kind of giant monopoly controlling all the phone lines in the southeast. My experience is quite the opposite -- I see so many companies trying to provide phone service that it's clear the telecommunications business is now as competitive as any other. I understand that BellSouth has lost a big piece of the business communications market in Kentucky, and that BellSouth is actually a minority player in the business high-speed Internet market in our state.

I think there's a big issue of fairness here as well. I'm told that of all the telecommunications companies doing business in Kentucky, BellSouth is presently the only one that can't offer long distance services. This means that BellSouth can't compete fairly in the marketplace. It seems very unfair that some telecommunications companies have such a big lead on BellSouth in this regard.

Please join the Kentucky PSC in giving your OK to BellSouth's plans to offer long distance service in Kentucky, as filed in WC Docket No. 02-150. It's the right thing to do for Kentucky telecommunications customers.

Sincerely,


Steve E. Higdon
President and CEO

Copy: Representative Anne Meagher Northup
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin
~~FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch~~
Dorothy Attwood, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

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G. EDWARD ELLIOTT, Ed.D.
VICE PRESIDENT AND
MANAGER, COMPUTER SERVICES

July 8, 2002

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

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JUL 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: WC Docket Number 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

Many Mississippians are aware of BellSouth's recent request to enter the long distance market. This letter reflects my support for the company's petition and encourages your approval.

Competitors offer attractive, bundled package of services. However, as a BellSouth customer I must currently shop elsewhere for long distance service, which results in the increased complexity of business-critical communication systems, additional bills to process, as well as higher prices. All because long distance is not a component of the package BellSouth is able to offer. My company is very dependent upon reliable and competitively priced voice and data communication systems in the conduct of its day-to-day business. I believe once BellSouth enters the long distance business, AT&T and other similar long distance providers will lower their rates in an effort to compete.

I am sure that fully deregulating an industry as complex as the telecommunications industry is difficult, requiring time and careful planning to ensure it is done properly. Congress did that when it crafted the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which contains numerous safeguards and requirements to ensure competition is fairly introduced. I believe BellSouth has met each and every one of the federally mandated requirements, along with those imposed by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

At this particular stage in the economy, and recognizing the critical role telecommunications plays in the business world, we need the BellSouth option. BellSouth's reputation is one of rock-solid stability with a track record of outstanding service. The option to consider BellSouth for long distance service would be beneficial to businesses as well as consumers. It would also stimulate and encourage competition.

I strongly urge you to endorse BellSouth's request for entry into the long distance market.

Sincerely,

G. Edward Elliott

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- cc: Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary
- Dorothy Attwood, Wireline Competition Bureau Chief
- Susan Pié, Wireline Competition Bureau - Room 5-C224

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE



ROBERT K. HOLMES, JR., CCIM
CORPORATE VICE PRESIDENT

July 3, 2002

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JUL 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

RE: WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a concerned Kentucky citizen and businessman, I'm writing to ask the Federal Communications Commission to approve WC Docket No. 02-150 – BellSouth's petition to offer long distance services in Kentucky and four other states. The time has definitely come for BellSouth to be allowed into the Kentucky long distance business.

At present, my company doesn't even have the option of considering BellSouth as a potential long distance service provider. I don't have that option at home, either. The FCC's approval of WC Docket No. 02-150 would broaden my range of choices for home and business long distance services alike.

In today's struggling U.S. economy, it's important that telecommunications consumers have as many options as possible. Competition brings prices down, and I've no doubt that BellSouth's entry into the Kentucky long distance business will result in lower prices and wider service options for long distance service. Please approve WC Docket No. 02-150 and allow BellSouth into the long distance business in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Copy: Representative Anne Meagher Northup
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch ✓
Dorothy Attwood, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

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