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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 21, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
 Secretary
 Office of the Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Joint Applications of Verizon for Authorization Under Section 271 of the Communications Act to provide In-Region, InterLATA Service in the State of Virginia, WC Docket No. 02-214

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Public utility commissions in several states have endorsed Verizon's entry into the long distance market in their respective states. These commissions have concluded that Verizon had met the open local market requirement of the Telecommunications Act and should be allowed to enter that state's long distance market.

In view of these decisions, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) would like to bring to your attention our position on telecommunications deregulation. In 2001, ALEC's Telecommunications and Information Technology Task Force approved a policy position containing the following statement:

"...it remains ALEC policy that free market principles must prevail. Business should expect a competitive environment unburdened by indiscriminate regulations and market uncertainty with minimal political involvement."

With over 2,400 legislative members, ALEC has grown to become the nation's largest bipartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators. ALEC's mission is to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty among America's state legislators.

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It is our hope that the Federal Communications Commission will consider the important role of the states, as delegated in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, when reviewing this—or any other service provider's—Section 271 application.

The public service and utility commissions in the states have clearly taken the necessary steps to create an environment where competition will take seed and grow, in turn, bringing consumers the most advanced technology and quality service at competitive prices.

As the Federal Communications Commission weighs this important issue, we urge you to give the strongest consideration to Verizon's application to provide long-distance service in Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Parde". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Duane Parde
Executive Director