

March 17, 2002

Mr. Kurt Beckett  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Kurt Beckett:

I support any company who is making the effort to try and change existing regulations that are holding back the opportunity for real competition. Qwest is one of those companies, and I think people like me would see lower phone bills if more companies were able to offer their services.

But there seems to be little hope that day will come any time soon. We continue to be forced to endure delay after delay. Why should we be forced to wait when phone customers in other states already are enjoying the benefits that come from allowing the local phone company to offer long distance service?

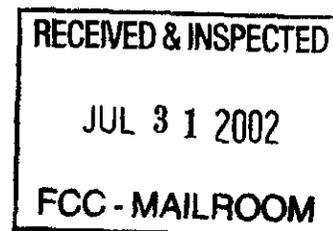
In my opinion, I think the sooner that more companies can get into the long distance market, the better off we as consumers will be. So as a consumer, I hope to see more competition at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



Charlene Geisert  
922 N 45<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle, WA 98103

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March 17, 2002

3100-168<sup>th</sup> PI SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008

Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lieutenant Governor:

I have worked in the telecommunications industry for many years and have seen what an impact it has on the economy. Telecommunications plays a vital role to the economy in good times and in bad.

I have been following the different phases of Qwest's attempts to enter our state's long distance market. I'm hopeful to see a change in the long distance business as soon as possible. I realize that many steps have to be taken, but in my opinion the sooner the better.

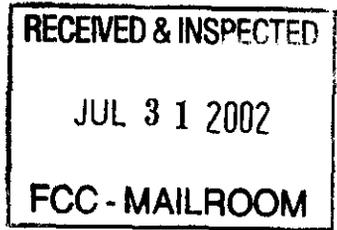
Unfortunately, real choice for consumers seems to be coming later rather than sooner. Phone customers in other states are saving money by being able to pick from all long distance providers. When will we have that chance here?

Hopefully we will experience the benefits of Qwest's long distance services soon. I urge you to join me in supporting real long distance competition.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Paulson

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March 17, 2002

Mr. Kurt Beckett  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Beckett,

It seems that service always improves and prices go down when customers are given more choices. So, why don't we have more competition in Washington for our long-distance phone service?

If our local phone service provider was allowed to offer long distance service too, I think it would benefit everyone involved. I've read that in states where the local providers were allowed to enter the long distance market, the long distance bills dropped by at least 10 percent, and local service became cheaper, too.

For the past five years, I've watched my long distance bill get more expensive and more complicated than ever. It does no good to switch between the national service providers, because they all raise their prices at the same time, and they add on all kinds of extra fees and charges because they know consumers don't have another choice.

It's about time for another option in long distance service here in Washington.

Sincerely,

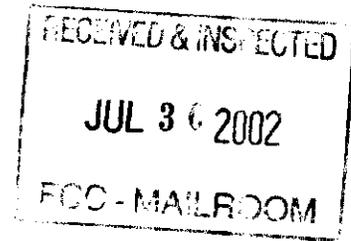


Ronald Thomas  
1915 Terry Ave, Room 508  
Seattle, WA 98010



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

July 17, 2002



Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
CY-B402  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Secretary Dortch:

We are writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to approve Qwest Communications' application to provide long-distance service in Washington state.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) has completed a lengthy and exhaustive process to determine if Qwest has fulfilled its statutory and regulatory requirements to open their local networks to competition prior to receiving FCC approval to re-enter the long-distance market. It is our understanding that the WUTC has concluded that all requirements of the "14-point checklist" have been successfully met, and that the WUTC is recommending to the FCC that Qwest's application for Washington be approved. We commend the WUTC for the thorough and rigorous process they undertook with all of the affected parties to reach this conclusion, and we support their recommendation.

Our interest in this process is economic development. We are constantly seeking opportunities to enhance economic growth in Washington, and we believe that access to advanced telecommunications services and technology is a critical component to our success. Businesses looking to locate or expand in our area must always consider the degree of access to advanced telecom services as a part of their decision-making process.

We request that you give Washington a needed tool to help achieve our goal to grow our economy, provide new jobs, and sustain our rural and urban quality of life. Allowing Qwest to re-enter the long-distance market in Washington will stimulate more competition, resulting in more choices, better service and lower prices.

We urge you to expeditiously approve Qwest's application to offer long-distance service in Washington.

Respectfully,

  
David McFadden  
Board President

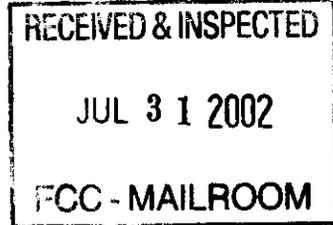
Confirmed

AUG 06 2002

Distribution Center

*The Voice of Economic Development in Washington*

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March 17, 2002

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear David Danner:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

As someone who is involved in telecommunications for a large company, I'm getting tired of waiting for the day that Qwest receives approval to offer interstate long distance service in our state.

For companies like mine with regional, national and international data and voice needs, the increase in long distance choices will increase our ability to negotiate better prices and to align with a vendor who can meet my business needs.

Additionally, Qwest's long distance entry will increase products and services available to my company's customers by opening up Qwest's network potential. And opening the long distance market to competition will improve the state economy in a way that will directly benefit large businesses.

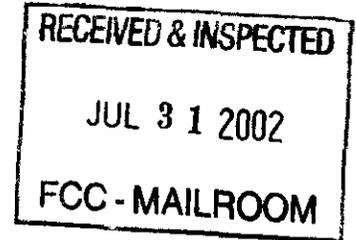
But all we've seen is delay after delay after delay. My company is being denied the opportunity to save untold amounts of money by benefiting from long distance competition. And we're falling farther and farther behind companies in other states.

I urge you to support an end to delays preventing Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market.

Sincerely,



Connie McGehee  
1915 Terry Ave. Room 401  
Seattle, WA 98026



March 20, 2002

Representative Richard DeBolt  
Washington State Legislature  
424 JLOB  
Olympia, WA 98504

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Representative DeBolt:

As an employee of a large business, I see potential benefits for my company after Qwest is allowed to offer interstate long distance phone service in our state. The problem is that it doesn't appear as if that day will come any time soon.

Other states already enjoy the benefits of long distance competition, but here we continue to wait. Why? Isn't it about time we all got to enjoy lower prices?

As real competition drives costs down and variety of offerings up, large businesses like the one I work for will see financial benefits and expanded opportunities. In fact, long distance entry by the local telephone company will result in additional jobs being created in the state across a variety of industries.

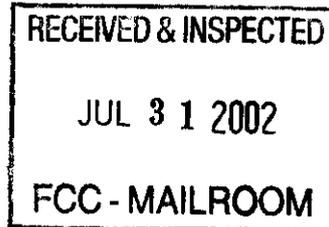
Qwest's entrance into our state's long distance market will mean good news for large businesses like mine and for the economy.

Thank you for your time. I hope you'll join me in supporting an end to the delays that block real long distance competition in our state.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon McPhail".

Sharon McPhail  
1600 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
#2508  
Seattle, WA 98191



March 17, 2002

Jon Cornelius  
1734 NE Indigo Lane  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Danner:

I'd like to be able to save money on my phone bill. I am writing in support of Qwest's attempt to enter our state's long distance market. I currently don't have a real choice of long distance service ... and based on what I've seen happening, it doesn't appear as if I will any time soon.

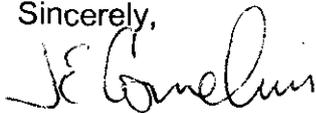
I have no particular interest in Qwest or any other company. But I do know that with more companies competing against each other for my business, I'll get lower rates. Unfortunately, we don't currently have real competition in our state's long distance business. All the companies are just alike.

With a company like Qwest in the market, I'll be able to get not only lower prices but also bundled services: local, long distance, Internet. I'd like to be able to write one check each month. And I'd like to be able to choose from a variety of companies – among Qwest and its competitors – to pick the best deal for me.

But for now, I don't have any of those options. While other customers in other states are saving money because they've got long distance competition, all I can do is hope for the day it happens here in our state.

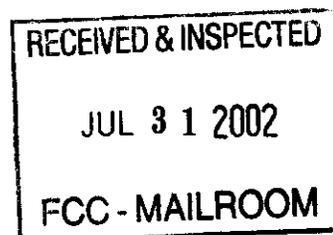
I'm hopeful you will support Qwest's efforts to offer long distance, and that some time soon I'll have the opportunity to save money and have a real choice.

Sincerely,



Jon Cornelius

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March 17, 2002

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Danner,

My long distance phone bill keeps going up, which makes no sense because I know the cost of this service for national providers like AT&T and MCI is getting cheaper. Yet, they raise their prices and add on more and more confusing charges all the time, because they know they can get away with it.

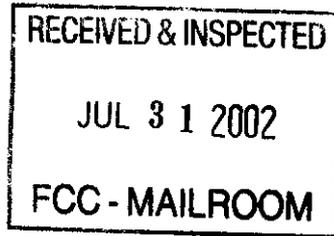
So why can't we get some more competition here? I know Qwest is trying to get into the business, and it seems like they're making a good effort, so what's the problem?

The only way my long distance bill will come down is if there are more providers, like Qwest, competing for the business. I also think that customer service will actually get better if local providers are allowed to offer long distance service. And it could even bring more competition for local phone service as well, since providers could offer services in a bundle, with local, long distance and Internet access included.

I hope that you agree that we need more competition for long distance service in Iowa, and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this subject.

Sincerely,

  
Eric Jones  
1600 7<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 3209  
Seattle, WA 98191



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March 17, 2002

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear David Danner: WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

I have lived in the area for a number of years now and have rarely seen a break in my local and long distance phone bills.

I have followed some of the stories about Qwest's efforts to enter the long distance market and am all for it. Our state's consumers should have the choice about where they will get their long distance service. It looks like Qwest's efforts have paid off in several different states by lowering rates and providing more competition for the consumers to choose from.

But here, all we seem to get are delays. Why isn't the process moving along? Why do we have to wait seemingly forever?

I hope that Washington is not too far behind the others in this expansion of the long distance business, because I am all for more competition and lower long distance rates.

Sincerely,



D. F. Brown  
PO Box 276  
Ephrata, WA 98823

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
JUL 31 2002  
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March 20, 2002

Senator Tim Sheldon  
Washington State Legislature  
408 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

As someone who is heavily involved in economic development, I am writing to support Qwest's efforts to re-enter the long distance market in our state. But why is it taking so long?

We're losing jobs and economic growth to states that have real competition. Why? Because companies will go where they can enjoy the benefits of competition: lower prices, improved service, advanced technology.

In my work, I have found that telecommunications is fundamental to a strong economy. In fact, it is an imperative part of a healthy community's infrastructure. That's important, because across the nation, competition for new and expanding businesses is intense. Only communities with a strong telecommunications infrastructure can attract these companies.

Full, fair long distance competition is central to a robust state economy and a growing economic climate. Only with a real choice for interstate long distance service will relocating and expanding companies benefit. This is especially true for companies that engage in high-speed, high-volume data transmissions.

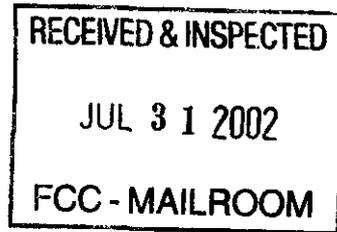
But we continue to wait ... and wait ... and wait. Enough is enough. Please join me in supporting real competition in our state's long distance market.

Sincerely, *James Link*

James Link  
4426 Circle Place NE  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

*All Long Distance companies are  
going into the long distance market  
It is not fair to allow a wait into long distance service.*

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Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. David Danner:

Older citizens in our state have a big problem — exorbitant long distance telephone rates. People like me and my friends are simply paying far more than we should on long distance phone calls.

What makes this situation so tragic is that it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, it could change almost overnight. All our state has to do is allow real competition in long distance phone service.

Other states have already opened the doors to competition, and the savings to all consumers, not just older citizens, have been well documented. In places like New York and Texas people are now saving millions of dollars on their long distance phone calls. But not here at home.

It's not just money we're throwing away, it's opportunity. More competition will bring not just lower rates, but technological advances and better service. Companies that are considering moving to our state will take one look at our high long distance rates and decide to go someplace else, someplace with competitive rates. In turn, our state's economy will sag. And that's something nobody wants.

But this is also a personal issue. Because I'm on a fixed income, like most older citizens, I can't afford to make all the out-of-state phone calls that I would like, and that means I can't talk to my friends and family members as often as I'd like.

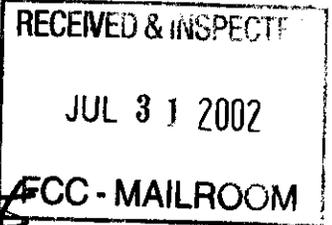
Please do what you can to fix this problem. You are a person with influence in this matter. If you join the crusade to bring real competition to long distance phone service, it could make all the difference to people like me.

Sincerely,



Louis Geisler  
672 Mt Olympus Ave SE  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189



Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Beckett,

The people, including children, in the state of Washington are not able to save dollars in a time of tight budgets. Why?

It is time to move ahead with further erosion of the monopoly and give consumers some additional choices.

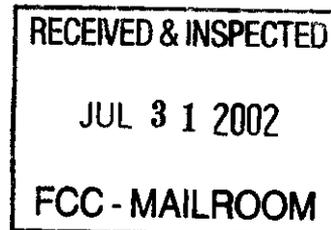
Keep in mind consumers include disadvantaged children families.

So open up the long distance competition and give us all a break and especially the kids.

Ron Woldut  
14503 Jefferson Way  
Lynnwood, WA  
98037

March 20, 2002

Representative Richard DeBolt  
Washington State Legislature  
424 JLOB  
Olympia, WA 98504



WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Representative:

As one of our state's "senior citizens," I'm writing to express my very deep concern over our continuing lack of competition in long distance telephone service.

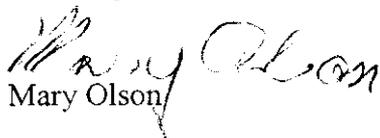
There is no lack of evidence to support the fact that genuine competition would save our state millions of dollars every year. Consumers in other states — like New York and Texas — already enjoy the cost-saving benefits of long distance competition. It has been proven time and again that competition not only reduces the high price of making a long distance call, it almost always also ushers in technological advances and improved overall phone service. This, in turn attracts business to our state, business that might otherwise locate elsewhere where long distance rates are cheaper.

For people like me, who live on a fixed income and must make every penny count, lower long distance rates would be a very real blessing. And there's no good reason that I can determine why we don't go ahead and let phone companies like Qwest enter the long distance marketplace. What on earth are we waiting for?

But there's more to this problem than just saving money. For people like me, with loved ones living far away, the high price of making long distance phone calls, prohibits me from calling them as often as I would like. It's a burden that simply should not be placed on seniors.

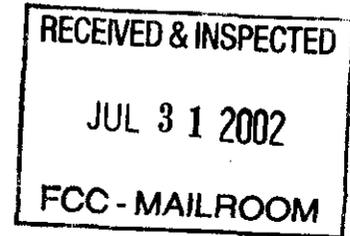
I urge you to do everything in your power to change this situation for the better. It doesn't require all that much. Just do what you can in your position of influence to introduce genuine long distance competition to our state.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Olson

Mary Olson ■ 207 NE Angel Oak Ct ■ Poulsbo, WA 98370

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March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Lieutenant Governor:

There are very few real choices in Washington when it comes to long distance phone service. My thought is consumers would be happier with their service if they had the chance to choose and the companies competed for their business. That issue is at the heart of Qwest's attempts to enter our state's long distance market.

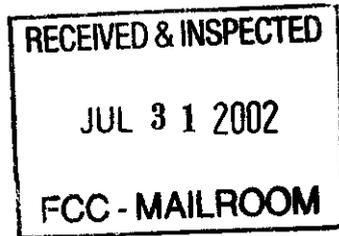
But we continue to hear about delays and more delays. We continue to wait for the day when we'll really get a choice.

This choice is happening in other states nationwide. What's the holdup in Washington? I know as a consumer that the best deal is only out there because of competition. So let's open up the market and lower those prices!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Troy Morrow".

Troy Morrow  
501 W Second Ave  
Spokane, WA 99201



March 20, 2002

Senator Tim Sheldon  
Washington State Legislature  
408 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Sheldon:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

I am writing to support Qwest's application to re-enter our state's long distance market. Entrance of the regional Bell company has worked in other states, and it will bring benefits here as well.

But I'm starting to wonder if that day will ever arrive. All we've had here is delay after delay after delay. Frankly, I'm tired of waiting. And if you want a real choice of long distance service, you're tired of waiting, too.

Evidence from elsewhere demonstrates that long distance competition will drive other companies to offer expanded services and lower prices to residential and business customers.

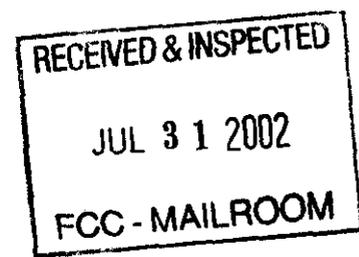
For example, in Pennsylvania, where Verizon has been approved to enter the long distance business, AT&T offered its residential customers 30 minutes of free long distance to thank them for being "loyal" customers. AT&T provided similar rewards in Massachusetts about a month after Verizon was allowed to compete for long distance customers, and also in Kansas and Oklahoma several weeks after SBC entered the long distance market.

Other states' consumers shouldn't be the only ones to benefit from competition. I hope you'll join me in supporting an end to the delays preventing Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market.

Sincerely,

Marvin Vanderhorst  
1600 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste. 2013  
Seattle, WA 98191

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March 17, 2002

Mr. Kurt Beckett  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Mr. Kurt Beckett:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

As an individual who uses long distance service extensively, it is important to me that I have a broad choice in the long distance carriers. I think that by opening up the long distance market for Qwest it gives consumers the opportunity to have the best service out there.

But it appears as if we'll have to wait even longer now for that day. We've been told it's coming, but the process seems to go on and on and on.

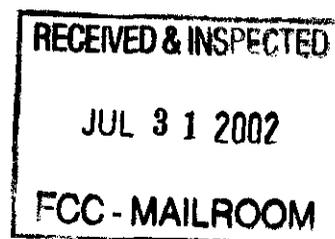
In states like New York, Pennsylvania and Texas, consumers are reaping the benefits of lower long distance rates as well as more choice. Hopefully sooner rather than later consumers in our state can benefit these rewards as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Deebach".

Sharon Deebach  
7626 224<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



March 17, 2002

Mr. John Engber  
State Director  
U.S. Sen. Patty Murray  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Mr. Engber:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

I keep hearing Qwest, our local provider, may be allowed to offer long distance service in Washington someday. What can be done to expedite this process? Everyone knows more competition would bring better services and lower prices. I'd like to have the opportunity to buy a package of telephone services (local, long distance, DSL) from a single provider, thereby receiving even more cost savings.

Thank you for your time, and thanks for your interest in allowing our local provider to enter the long distance market.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Williamson".

Dick Williamson  
10829 SE 217<sup>th</sup> St  
Kent, WA 98031-2130

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JUL 31 2002

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March 17, 2002

Mr. John Engber  
State Director  
U.S. Sen. Patty Murray  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear John Engber:

As someone involved in my community's Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in regards to Qwest's re-entry into our state's long distance market.

Our state is falling behind. Other business communities can offer the opportunity to choose from the whole range of long distance providers – but not here. Why do we continue to have delays in being offered a real choice?

To be fully thriving, a business community needs all the tools available – including a fully competitive local phone market. As long as one company is prevented from challenging a market, the whole business community will suffer. When Qwest enters our state's long distance market, unrestricted competition in the long distance arena will emerge.

More and more, companies are dependent upon telecommunications to implement their business plans. A fully competitive long distance market will allow chamber members and other businesses new opportunities for lower prices, improved service and advanced technology.

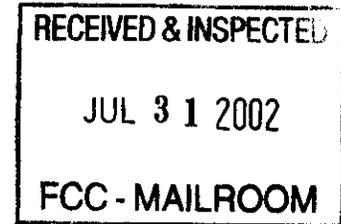
I urge you to join in urging an end to delays that block Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market and allow our state's business community to benefit from competition.

Sincerely,



Bill Vance  
5505 170<sup>th</sup> Pl SW  
Lynwood, WA 98037

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March 17, 2002  
Hardin Turney  
8340 Merrimount Drive  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear David Danner:

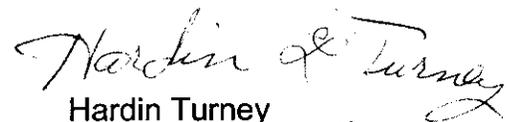
We're getting left behind. But we can do something about it.

Our state is falling behind others that have real competition in long distance phone service. As long as companies like Qwest are prevented from entering the market, consumers will continue to suffer. They won't be allowed to benefit from the lower prices, improved service and advanced technology that come with competition.

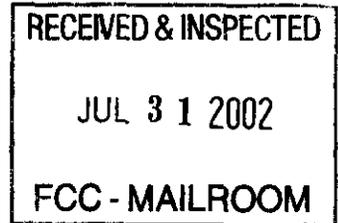
Meanwhile, other states are enjoying the benefits of competition ... including saving millions of dollars a year. Their economies grow, they attract new businesses and consumers see improvements.

I urge you to join me in supporting Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market.

Sincerely,

  
Hardin Turney  
3-20-02

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March 17, 2002

450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Rm 411  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lieutenant Governor:

We're getting left behind. But we can do something about it.

Our state is falling behind others that have real competition in long distance phone service. As long as companies like Qwest are prevented from entering the market, consumers will continue to suffer. They won't be allowed to benefit from the lower prices, improved service and advanced technology that come with competition.

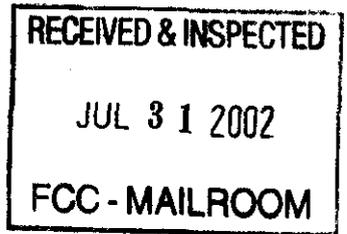
Meanwhile, other states are enjoying the benefits of competition ... including saving millions of dollars a year. Their economies grow, they attract new businesses and consumers see improvements.

I urge you to join me in supporting Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market.

Sincerely,



Michael Maas



March 17, 2002

Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lieutenant Governor Owen:

I support any company who is making the effort to try and change existing regulations that are holding back the opportunity for real competition. Qwest is one of those companies, and I think people like me would see lower phone bills if more companies were able to offer their services.

But there seems to be little hope that day will come any time soon. We continue to be forced to endure delay after delay. Why should we be forced to wait when phone customers in other states already are enjoying the benefits that come from allowing the local phone company to offer long distance service?

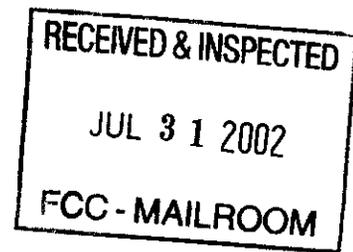
In my opinion, I think the sooner that more companies can get into the long distance market, the better off we as consumers will be. So as a consumer, I hope to see more competition at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helga Jackson".

Helga Jackson  
4318 S 325<sup>th</sup> St SE  
Aburn, WA 98001

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Mr. Kurt Beckett  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Beckett:

Consumers like me suffer a tremendous disadvantage each year because we live in a state that doesn't permit competition in long distance service. We're losing money hand over fist.

Isn't it time we changed that situation?

States like New York and Texas have introduced competition in the last couple of years, and now consumers there are saving millions of dollars. Many other states have also jumped on the bandwagon, and their citizens are now saving money rather than wasting it.

We all know what happens for consumers once competition is introduced — prices drop. It's been proven that's the case when genuine long distance competition arrives on the scene. Consumers and businesses start paying less. But they also start receiving more — greater technological advances and improved phone service.

If we don't do something soon, our state is going to fall behind the states that do allow competition in long distance. Companies will transfer their operations to places that don't inflict inflated, monopolistic long distance rates on their people. Economically, we can't afford it.

Now is the time to do something. Please join with other concerned consumers and add your voice to the demand for change. Let's bring real competition to our state's long distance service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Penrod".

Tom Penrod  
20137 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Richmond Beach, WA 98177

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUL 31 2002

FCC - MAILROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Brad Owen  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lt. Governor Owen:

Consumers like me suffer a tremendous disadvantage each year because we live in a state that doesn't permit competition in long distance service. We're losing money *hand over fist*.

Isn't it time we changed that situation?

States like New York and Texas have introduced competition in the last couple of years, and now consumers there are saving millions of dollars. Many other states have also jumped on the bandwagon, and their citizens are now saving money rather than wasting it.

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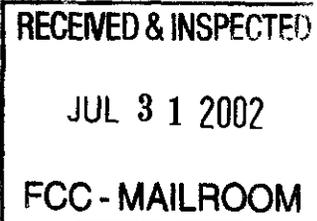
If we don't do something soon, our state is going to fall behind the states that do allow competition in long distance. Companies will transfer their operations to places that don't inflict inflated, monopolistic long distance rates on their people. Economically, we can't afford it.

Now is the time to do something. Please join with other concerned consumers and add your voice to the demand for change. Let's bring real competition to our state's long distance service.

Sincerely,



Stuart Weiss  
9612-55<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98118



Mr. John Engber  
State Director, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
Seattle, WA 98174

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Engber:

For a small business owner, it's hard enough to turn a profit in today's economy without having to throw money away needlessly on high long distance rates.

That's why I'm writing. I think it's time we removed the burden of inflated long distance rates from the backs of small business people like myself. Many other states have already done this. In places like New York and Texas they've introduced real competition in long distance. Businesses in those states are now saving millions of dollars in lowered rates. As a result of increased competition, they are also benefiting from higher quality phone service — and they now have the opportunity to choose from greater technological options.

Competition is a good thing. I have to face it every day. It makes my business stronger. There's no reason at all that phone companies shouldn't live with competition, either. Qwest is standing on the sideline, eager to enter the contest. I say, let them.

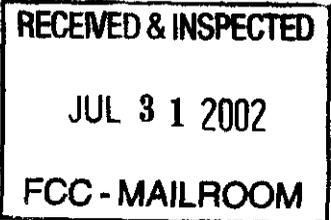
Consider the alternative. If we keep things at the status quo, without a free market, long distance rates will just keep getting higher as the service keeps getting poorer. Our state's overall economy will decline as companies move to markets that encourage competition and offer lower rates.

This isn't what I want to see happen in my state. And I don't think you want to see it happen, either. Please join with me and other small business operators in calling for real competition in long distance phone service.

Sincerely,

  
June Persson  
3217 103<sup>rd</sup> PI NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Owen:

Older citizens in our state have a big problem — exorbitant long distance telephone rates. People like me and my friends are simply paying far more than we *should* on long distance phone calls.

What makes this situation so tragic is that it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, it could change almost overnight. All our state has to do is allow real competition in long distance phone service.

Other states have already opened the doors to competition, and the savings to all consumers, not just older citizens, have been well documented. In places like New York and Texas people are now saving millions of dollars on their long distance phone calls. But not here at home.

It's not just money we're throwing away, it's opportunity. More competition will bring not just lower rates, but technological advances and better service. Companies that are considering moving to our state will take one look at our high long distance rates and decide to go someplace else, someplace with competitive rates. In turn, our state's economy will sag. And that's something nobody wants.

But this is also a personal issue. Because I'm on a fixed income, like most older citizens, I can't afford to make all the out-of-state phone calls that I would like, and that means I can't talk to my friends and family members as often as I'd like.

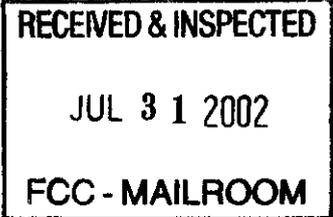
Please do what you can to fix this problem. You are a person with influence in this matter. If you join the crusade to bring real competition to long distance phone service, it could make all the difference to people like me.

Sincerely,



Betty Carlyle  
19224-129<sup>th</sup> Ct NE  
Bothell, WA 98011

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March 17, 2002

Mr. David Danner  
Governor's Executive Policy Office  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Mr. Danner:

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

I am writing to support Qwest's application to re-enter our state's long distance market. Entrance of the regional Bell company has worked in other states, and it will bring benefits here as well.

But I'm starting to wonder if that day will ever arrive. All we've had here is delay after delay after delay. Frankly, I'm tired of waiting. And if you want a real choice of long distance service, you're tired of waiting, too.

Evidence from elsewhere demonstrates that long distance competition will drive other companies to offer expanded services and lower prices to residential and business customers.

For example, in Pennsylvania, where Verizon has been approved to enter the long distance business, AT&T offered its residential customers 30 minutes of free long distance to thank them for being "loyal" customers. AT&T provided similar rewards in Massachusetts about a month after Verizon was allowed to compete for long distance customers, and also in Kansas and Oklahoma several weeks after SBC entered the long distance market.

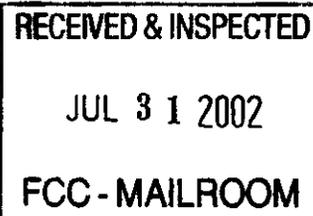
Other states' consumers shouldn't be the only ones to benefit from competition. I hope you'll join me in supporting an end to the delays preventing Qwest's efforts to enter our state's long distance market.

Ernie Kessler  
6324-46<sup>th</sup> St Ct. W  
University Place, WA 98466

*Mr. Danner, I am a retired telephone employee - 42 years with Pacific N.W. Bell. I am surely in favor of allowing Qwest to enter long distance service, as AT&T is already in the local service business in Washington.*

*253-  
phone 565-9272*

*Ernie Kessler*



March 20, 2002

Senator Tim Sheldon  
Washington State Legislature  
408 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Tim Sheldon:

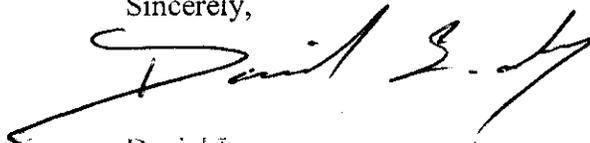
**WC DOCKET NO. 02-189**

At our company we're interested in the issue of long distance phone competition. I hope you'll join me in supporting the entry of our local phone company into the long distance business in Washington.

The only way long distance prices will come down is if there is additional competition in the industry. Washington has fallen behind other states by not processing expeditiously with this process. For too long, we've heard too much talk and seen too little action. Current long distance competitors want to keep the local phone company out of their market, and they're setting up roadblocks.

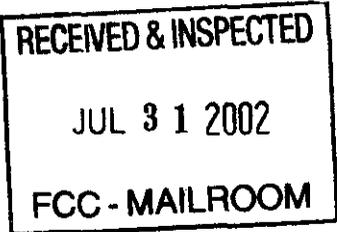
I hope that you agree that we need more competition for long distance service in Washington, and will join me in seeking an end to the delays.

Sincerely,



Daniel Ivy  
1600 7<sup>th</sup> Ave Room 1208  
Seattle, WA 98191

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



March 17, 2002

Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lieutenant Governor:

I have worked in the telecommunications industry for many years and have seen what an impact it has on the economy. Telecommunications plays a vital role to the economy in good times and in bad.

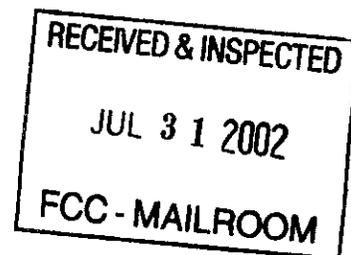
I have been following the different phases of Qwest's attempts to enter our state's long distance market. I'm hopeful to see a change in the long distance business as soon as possible. I realize that many steps have to be taken, but in my opinion the sooner the better.

Unfortunately, real choice for consumers seems to be coming later rather than sooner. Phone customers in other states are saving money by being able to pick from all long distance providers. When will we have that chance here?

Hopefully we will experience the benefits of Qwest's long distance services soon. I urge you to join me in supporting real long distance competition.

Sincerely, *C Lois Hall*

C Lois Hall  
1705 Jackman St  
Port Townsend, WA 98368



Mr. Brad Owen  
Lieutenant Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
304 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Lieutenant Governor Owen:

As one of our state's "senior citizens," I'm writing to express my very deep concern over our continuing lack of competition in long distance telephone service.

There is no lack of evidence to support the fact that genuine competition would save our state millions of dollars every year. Consumers in other states — like New York and Texas — already enjoy the cost-saving benefits of long distance competition. It has been proven time and again that competition not only reduces the high price of making a long distance call, it almost always also ushers in technological advances and improved overall phone service. This, in turn attracts business to our state, business that might otherwise locate elsewhere where long distance rates are cheaper.

For people like me, who live on a fixed income and must make every penny count, lower long distance rates would be a very real blessing. And there's no good reason that I can determine why we don't go ahead and let phone companies like Qwest enter the long distance marketplace. What on earth are we waiting for?

But there's more to this problem than just saving money. For people like me, with loved ones living far away, the high price of making long distance phone calls, prohibits me from calling them as often as I would like. It's a burden that simply should not be placed on seniors.

I urge you to do everything in your power to change this situation for the better. It doesn't require all that much. Just do what you can in your position of influence to introduce genuine long distance competition to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip Barden".

Phillip Barden  
3424 NE 17<sup>th</sup> Pl  
Renton, WA 98056