



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3305

January 31, 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Seventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a petition by the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. ("UCC") that calls for an investigation of the business and reporting practices of telecommunications providers and for a rulemaking proceeding to establish new, higher standards for conduct by those providers. I am writing to urge that you grant this petition and begin an investigation and rulemaking process that will strengthen our nation's telecommunications system.

As Chairman Powell has noted, America's communications infrastructure is one of the basic building blocks of our economy. From Defense Department command and control, to electronic distribution of Medicare benefit payments, and to the daily use by virtually every American, our nation relies upon and expects a dependable communications system. Unfortunately, the misconduct of some telecommunications providers has shaken confidence in that system and has called into question the adequacy of the Commission's current regulatory structure. Therefore, the Commission must be equipped with the tools necessary to protect the nation's telecommunications infrastructure and the industry's consumers, and to meet their expectation that this system operates fairly and for all.

The FCC depends on receiving reliable financial and revenue data from the companies it regulates. The FCC uses this information to calculate annual regulatory fees and contributions to programs such as the Universal Service Fund, to assess the condition of the market, and to establish regulatory policies. Unfortunately, the FCC's current standards authorize it to act against a company only after its misconduct has been adjudicated elsewhere. By then, the damage to the public is done.

UCC's petition calls for a Section 403 investigation that would reveal in specific detail how telecommunications providers' misconduct has affected the public. Such an investigation would provide the basis for a rulemaking to strengthen the FCC's regulatory framework and prevent

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
1526 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2071
FAX: (202) 225-2995
DC INFO LINE: (202) 226-0320

WINSTON-SALEM OFFICE:
2000 WEST FIRST STREET, SUITE 508
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27104
(336) 631-5125
FAX: (336) 725-4493
IN NC: 1 (800) 685-8916

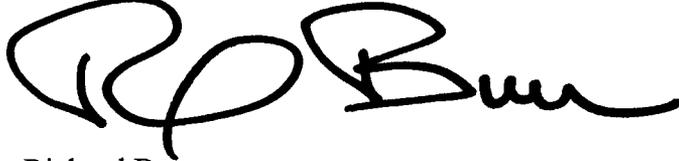
WILKESBORO OFFICE:
J.J. HAYES FEDERAL BUILDING
207 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 240
WILKESBORO, NC 28697
(336) 667-7418
FAX: (336) 667-7419

Mr. Michael K. Powell
January 31, 2003
Page 2

future wrongdoing. The petition provides concrete proposals for new, preemptive regulations that would eliminate incentives to misrepresent material facts before the FCC, ensure that outside auditors are truly independent, and protect shareholders from insider dealing by officers and directors.

I urge you to move forward on the UCC petition and help restore trust in the telecommunications industry. Thank you for your consideration, and please make this letter a part of the public record in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Burr". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Richard" written in a large, looped script and the last name "Burr" in a more compact, cursive style.

Richard Burr
Member of Congress

RB:kwr

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Joanthan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin