

03-11

EX PARTE ORIGINAL FILED

February 4, 2003

Confirmed

FEB 26 2003

Distribution

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Allowing Qwest to compete in our State's long distance market will increase the availability of products and services to businesses. Once Qwest enters the long distance market, large and small businesses will be able to choose one provider for all of their telecommunications needs – local, long distance, wireless and high-speed Internet – all with the convenience of a single bill.

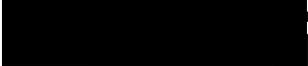
Increased competition in South Dakota's long distance market will benefit our State's economy. Qwest's entry into the long distance market will force other telecommunications companies to reduce their rates and to expand their services. The reduction in rates for consumers and the expansion of services by long distance providers will create new jobs and increase the flow of money throughout our State's economy.

Therefore, I urge you to approve Qwest's long distance application for South Dakota.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Kachelhoffer  
3908 E. Claudette Drive  
Sioux Falls. SD 57103



Donald Kachelhoffer  
3908 E. Claudette Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103



Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



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

Dear Chairmzn Powell:

I'm writing in support of Qwest's proposal to re-enter South Dakota's long distance market. Allowing more competition in the telecommunications industry would be beneficial to consumers.

If Qwest, or any other company for that matter, wants to offer me a better deal, I want the opportunity to do business with them. If they want to give me a low, flat rate on all of my communications needs (long distance, local and Internet), I want the option of choosing them as my provider.

Competition is necessary and should be encouraged. Qwest is asking for permission to eompcte in our State's long distance market. and I believe that consumers will benefit. the economy will benefit. and most importantly. I will benefit when Qwest is allowed to provide long distance service in South Dakota. Therefore, I urge you to permit Qwest to re-enter our State's long distance market

Sincerely,



Evelyn Blashill  
1700 Fair Lane  
Sioux Falls. SD 57105

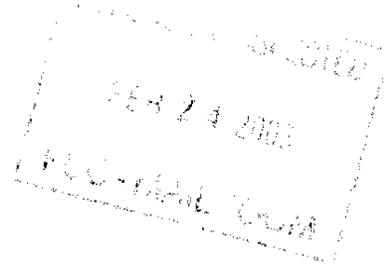


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February 4, 2003

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

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Distribution Center



Dear Chairman Powell:

**As** a retired person, I am concerned about the rising cost of long distance telephone service. It seems like the big three long distance companies – AT&T, MCI and Sprint are constantly increasing their rates.

One simple solution to this problem is to allow local telephone providers such as Qwest to compete in the long distance market. There is plenty of evidence to show that increased competition would save South Dakota consumers millions of dollars every year. Consumers in other states, including New York, Texas and Oklahoma, 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 also ushers in technological advances and improved overall phone service.

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. I urge you to approve Quest's request to enter our South Dakota's long distance market.

Sincerely,

*Richard Blashill*

Richard Blashill  
1700 Fair Lane  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105



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February 4, 2003

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

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 2003  
Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to express my support for competitive long distance service in our state. I believe that consumers should have a variety of long distance provider alternatives and competitive prices to choose from.

It is time to let Qwest into the South Dakota long distance market so customers can benefit from competition. Colorado and Nebraska as well as other states are realizing the benefits that come from more competition. Our state should be next.

Please support Qwest's application to offer interstate long distance service in South Dakota.

Sincerely,



Jack C. Shaffer  
400 E. Plum Creek Road  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105



February 4, 2003

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

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Confirmed  
FEB 26 2003  
Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a retired person, I am concerned about the rising cost of long distance telephone service. It seems like the big three long distance companies – AT&T, MCI and Sprint are constantly increasing their rates.

One simple solution to this problem is to allow local telephone providers such as Qwest to compete in the long distance market. There is plenty of evidence to show that increased competition would save South Dakota consumers millions of dollars every year. Consumers in other states, including New York, Texas and Oklahoma, 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 also ushers in technological advances and improved overall phone service.

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. I urge you to approve Quest's request to enter our South Dakota's long distance market.

Sincerely,



Monica Carmon  
1704 Warren Place  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105



February 4, 2003

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

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FEB 26 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing in regard to Qwest's proposal to provide long distance service in South Dakota. **As** a homeowner with multiple expenses every month. I look forward to Qwest's re-entry into the long distance market because it would allow Qwest to bundle their local and long distance telephone and Internet services and provide them for a flat rate.

These telecommunications services are indispensable parts of life and as such, they should be easy and affordable for me to access. By simply allowing Quest to compete in the long distance market, prices for these services will undoubtedly go down across the telecommunications market. To be competitive, companies will have to work harder to retain their customers who will have the option of changing providers if their needs are not met. **As** a result, service and prices in all areas (long distance, local and Internet) will likely improve.

If Qwest is allowed re-entry into the long distance market, maybe they will offer me a plan that fits my needs. Maybe another company will offer a better plan. Regardless, as the consumer, I should be allowed to make that decision based on the companies that are willing to meet my needs. The more companies fighting for my business, the better off I'll be. Therefore, I urge you to let Qwest join that fight soon.

Sincerely,



Darla F. Kachelhoffer  
3908 E. Claudette Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Darla F. Kachelhoffer  
3908 E. Claudette Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57133



Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



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Distribution Center

FEB 24 2003  
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February 4, 2003

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Allowing Qwest to compete in our State's long distance market will increase the availability of products and services to businesses. Once Qwest enters the long distance market, large and small businesses will be able to choose one provider for all of their telecommunications needs – local, long distance, wireless and high-speed Internet – all with the convenience of a single bill.

Increased competition in South Dakota's long distance market will benefit our State's economy. Qwest's entry into the long distance market will force other telecommunications companies to reduce their rates and to expand their services. The reduction in rates for consumers and the expansion of services by long distance providers will create new jobs and increase the flow of money throughout our State's economy.

Therefore, I urge you to approve Qwest's long distance application for South Dakota.

Sincerely,

*Audrey E. Haug*

Audrey E. Haug  
808 S. Roberts Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



February 4, 2003

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

introduction

FEB 27 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing in support of Qwest's proposal to re-enter the long distance market in South Dakota. There is no down side to allowing competition in the telecommunications market. Consumers only stand to benefit from the greater choices, higher quality service and lower rates that would surely follow Qwest's re-entry.

Of particular interest to me, and I'm sure to other consumers, is the possibility of bundled services at a lower cost. Currently, I'm writing multiple checks to multiple companies each month for local long distance and Internet services. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to avoid this hassle, find the best carrier for my needs and write one check each month.

In addition, I'd like the opportunity to save on my long distance bill. According to a recent study, South Dakota consumers could potentially save over \$16 million annually on their long distance bill when Qwest re-enters the long distance market.

I want the option of choosing one provider for all my telecommunications needs. Qwest's re-entry into the long distance market will make that option available to me. Therefore, I urge you to approve Qwest's proposal to compete in South Dakota's long distance market.

Sincerely,



Robert Locken  
3130 W. 57<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

