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June 10, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commissioner
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Dortch,

As an advocate for business to promote the five-enterprise system, improve the business environment and build a better community, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce supports competition in the marketplace. Streamlining regulations in Minnesota would allow for enhanced competition, greater choice for consumers and, ultimately, lower costs for communication.

We support the entry of additional telecommunications companies into the interLATA long distance business in Minnesota. Allowing more companies entrance into interLATA will serve our community and the state by increasing the level of long distance competition and the amount of competition for other telecommunications services. Likewise, we also support the entrance of other telecommunications companies into the local telecommunications business. The enhanced competition provided by these moves would result in additional choice and cost savings to business and residential customers.

The Winona Chamber of Commerce's Board of Director's supports Qwest's efforts to enter the interLATA long distance business. We urge the FCC to act quickly in considering Qwest's application to provide interLATA long distance service in the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions at (507) 452-2272.

Sincerely,



Della Schmidt
President/CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

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cc: Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Norm Coleman
Representative Gil Gutknecht