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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



The House of Representatives
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 586
Saipan, MP 96950

ORIGINAL

June 6, 2003

STTDOC. 071-03

VIA FAX/AIRMAIL
(202) 418-0232

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 03-115

Dear Chairman Powell:

This petition is made pursuant to FCC's Public Notice, referenced as "DA 03-1532", dated May 9, 2003, on the above subject matter.

We, the undersigned petitioners are members of the Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, 13th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and citizen of the United States of America, request that the Federal Communications Commission and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission deny the Application by Pacific Telecom, Inc. and any application by a foreign-owned cooperation from acquiring any majority or minority interest in the Commonwealth's telecommunications facilities.

WHEREAS, Pacific Telecommunications Inc. ("PTI"), a foreign corporation situated in the Republic of the Philippines and owned by the Delgado family, proposes to acquire a majority interest in the telecommunications network of the Commonwealth by acquiring the network through a proposed purchase from Verizon Inc.; and

WHEREAS, ownership of the telecommunications network by PTI would constitute a foreign majority ownership of a critical infrastructure of the Commonwealth, telecommunications, subject to control by such foreign ownership; and

WHEREAS, foreign ownership of the telecommunications network, in the form of a monopoly poses a threat to the economic security of the Commonwealth in that foreign owners do not have the best interest of the Commonwealth in mind as to all aspects of business planning including employment of a local workforce; reinvesting profits in the community; and commitment to partnership with the community; and

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WHEREAS, PTI is a foreign corporation whose shareholders are from the Republic of the Philippines with a diverse business interest in that country but who has no history of investment in the Commonwealth or of any contributions to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in light of the importance of telecommunications to homeland security, the foreign-ownership of the telecommunications infrastructure is antithetical to the efforts by the United States to ensure the security of our borders and our communications systems both in terms of defense security and economic security in that allowing foreign control of a monopoly may threaten such security; and

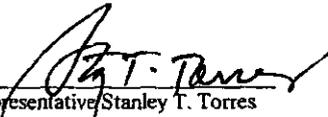
WHEREAS, allowing foreign ownership and control of the telecommunications network in the Commonwealth is not in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth for they would become subject to pricing schemes and business decisions of an entity with little or no presence and therefore with no accountability to its customers; and

WHEREAS, a foreign corporation with a monopoly over a major infrastructure would effectively be able to hold the Commonwealth, including the government, business, and the people hostage in the absence of competitive alternatives, a scenario which is untenable; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Commonwealth have benefited and should continue to benefit as a Commonwealth from their relationship with the United States and no other foreign country through the rate integration with the United States as being in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth; now,

THEREFORE, we hereby requests that the Federal Communications Commission and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission deny any application by a foreign corporation to secure any interest in the telecommunications network, whether by majority or minority interest or in part; and

That the people of the Commonwealth be provided with the opportunity to be heard and fully informed by the commission as to any application by any foreign corporation to purchase control of our telecommunications network.


Representative Stanley T. Torres

Representative Jesus T. Attao

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Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider

Representative Arnold I. Palacios

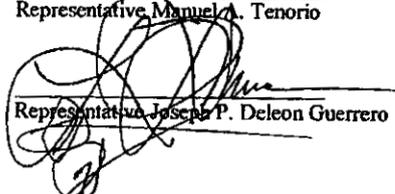
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb

Representative William S. Torres

Representative Manuel A. Tenorio



Representative Martin B. Ada



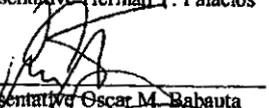
Representative Josefa P. Deleon Guerrero



Representative Pedro P. Castro

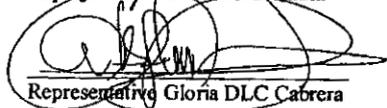
Representative Herman T. Palacios

Representative Benjamin B. Seman



Representative Oscar M. Babauta

Representative Andrew S. Salas



Representative Gloria DLC Cabrera

Representative Frank DLG. Aldan

Senator Thomas P. Villagomez



Senator Pete P. Reyes

Senator Ramon S. Guerrero

Cc: Governor, Juan N. Babauta
Chairman, Norman T. Tenorio, CTC
File