WHEREAS, Columbus City Council looks to promote public policies which will increase jobs and promote more choices and competition in the telecommunications industry; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 envisioned fundamental changes in the telecommunications markets with more local and long distance competition; and

WHEREAS, SBC Ameritech's entrance into the long distance market in Ohio will bring strong competition into the local and long distances markets in Ohio and provide other consumer benefits to Columbus and Central Ohio such as more investment, better prices, further economic development and jobs as well as innovation, and convenience for the customer; and

WHEREAS, more than 140 companies are currently certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to provide local telephone services in the State of Ohio, and SBC Ameritech is the only company currently prohibited from carrying long distance calls; and

WHEREAS, SBC Ameritech employs more than 2,000 Central Ohio residents; including members of the Communications Workers of America and their entry into the long distance market promises to increase local job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, SBC Ameritech supports, expedites and enhances community and downtown development in Columbus such as most recently the I-570 freeway cap in the Short North; and

WHEREAS, the FCC will review SBC Ameritech's long distance application 90 days after filing to determine compliance with the 1996 Telecommunications Act and Columbus City Council desires to join other municipalities and Chambers of Commerce across the State of Ohio in supporting SBC Ameritech's application for long distance service; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

That we do hereby support SBC Ameritech's long distance application with the Ohio Public Utilities Commission in order to increase competition in the marketplace, provide consumers with savings, and spur new investment, services, and employment in Columbus and Central Ohio.