

August 5, 2003

Federal Communication Commission
C/O Commission Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

The Huntington National Bank is the principal subsidiary of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated, a \$28 billion regional bank holding company headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Huntington provides retail and commercial financial products and services through more than 300 regional banking offices in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Huntington also offers retail and commercial financial services online at www.huntington.com; through its 24-hour telephone bank; and through its network of more than 900 ATMs.

Selected financial service activities are also conducted in other states including: Dealer Sales offices in Florida, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Arizona; Private Financial Group offices in Florida; and Mortgage Banking offices in Florida, Maryland and New Jersey. International banking services are made available through the headquarters office in Columbus and additional offices located in the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Huntington has sophisticated and diverse needs for telecommunications services. We transport vast amounts of information via public and private networks throughout the country and throughout the world. We depend upon a variety of vendors to serve our ever-increasing telecommunications needs. Competition in the telecommunications industry has been extremely beneficial to our business. We believe that allowing SBC into the long distance business in Ohio will provide further benefits and give us another competitive alternative for our comprehensive telecommunications needs.

We urge you to grant approval to SBC's request to offer long distance services in Ohio and its other Mid-west states.

Very truly yours,

(sent electronically)
Brad Gaitten
Vice President, Network & Customer Support Services
The Huntington National Bank
7 Easton Oval
Columbus, Ohio 43219