

From: Randy Shotwell
To: Randy Shotwell
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 8 49 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Durbin

Senator Fitzgerald

Representative Hyde

Message text follows

Randy Shotwell
905 S Arnold Ct
Des Plaines, IL 60016-5868

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

(847) 290-9283

Sincerely,

Randy K Shotwell

From: Randy Shotwell
To: Randy Shotwell
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 1 08 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Durbin
Senator Fitzgerald
Representative Hyde
Message text follows:

Randy Shotwell
905 S Arnold Ct
Des Plaines, IL 60016-5868

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service

Sincerely,

Randy K Shotwell

From: Rankin
To: Mike Powell
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 12 40 PM
Subject: UNE-P

I urge you to Protect consumer choice
 Support retention of the UNE-P
 Require open access for cable broadband

Very respectfully ..
Warren R Keller
1641 Jeffords St
Clearwater, FL 33756-4500

-- unifrm55@earthlink.net

From: Rankin
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 12:42 PM
Subject: UNE-P

I urge you to Protect consumer choice
 Support retention of the UNE-P
 Require open access for cable broadband

Very respectfully
Warren R Keller
1641 Jeffords St.
Clearwater, FL 33756-4500

-- uniform55@earthlink.net

From: Ray Mercer
To: Ray Mercer
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 10 09 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Durbin
Senator Fitzgerald
Representative Costello
Message text follows:

Ray Mercer
616 S 7th St.
Wood River, IL 62095

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Ray Mercer

From: Raymond Coffey
To: Raymond Coffey
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 10 12 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Talent

Message text follows

Raymond Coffey
14815 S. Orleans Trail
Stockton, MO 65785

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Raymond Coffey

From: Raymond Coffey
To: Raymond Coffey
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 10 16 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients
Senator Bond
Representative Skelton
Message text follows

Raymond Coffey
14815 S. Orleans Trail
Stockton, MO 65785

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Raymond Coffey

From: Raymond Boileau
To: Raymond Boileau
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 10:17 AM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Kohl
Senator Feingold
Representative Green
Message text follows

Raymond Boileau
E4981 Hatton Rd
Weyauwega, WI 54983

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here].

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Ray Boileau

From: Raymond Boileau
To: Raymond Boileau
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 10:19 AM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients.

Senator Kohl
Senator Feingold
Representative Green
Message text follows.

Raymond Boileau
E4981 Hatton Rd
Weyauwega, WI 54983

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Ray Boileau

From: Raymond Esber
To: Raymond Esber
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 6 27 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Reid
Senator Ensign
Representative Gibbons
Message text follows:

Raymond Esber
25 Manzanita Ter
Carson City, NV 89706

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Raymond Esber

From: rene j legras
To: rene j. legras
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 8:02 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Dodd
Senator Lieberman
Representative Larson
Message text follows.

rene j legras
115 nilan st
hartford, CT 06106-3779

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service

Sincerely,

mr. rene j. legras

From: Renee Reznick
To: Renee Reznick
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 4 57 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients
Representative Crane
Message text follows:

Renee Reznick
111 S. Baybrook Dr. #410
Palatine, IL 60074-6841

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Renee Reznick

From: Renee Reznick
To: Renee Reznick
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 4:57 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Durbin

Senator Fitzgerald

Message text follows:

Renee Reznick
111 S. Baybrook Dr #410
Palatine, IL 60074-6841

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Renee Reznick

From: REX JOHNSTON
To: REX JOHNSTON
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 4 34 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Brownback
Senator Roberts
Representative Tiahrt
Message text follows

REX JOHNSTON
432 SOUTH WINTERSET CT
WICHITA, KS 67209

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

REX JOHNSTON

From: Rex Sanders
To: Rex Sanders
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 9 02 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Shelby
Senator Sessions
Representative Everett
Message text follows

Rex Sanders
2628 boykin place
Montgomery, AL 36117-4660

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here].

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Rex W Sanders

From: Rhonda R Rivera
To: Rhonda R Rivera
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 12:18 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Domenici
Senator Bingaman
Representative Wilson
Message text follows.

Rhonda R. Rivera
10218 Prescott Court NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-4519

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here].

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service

Sincerely,

Rhonda R Rivera

From: Richard Bragg
To: Richard Bragg
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 3:47 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Snowe

Senator Collins

Message text follows:

Richard Bragg
1 Whittier St.
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Richard Bragg

From: Richard Bragg
To: Richard Bragg
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 3 48 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Representative Michaud

Message text follows:

Richard Bragg
1 Whittier St.
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Richard Bragg

From: richard johnson
To: richard johnson
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 5 36 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Durbin

Message text follows:

richard johnson
1258 beechwood ct
schaumburg, IL 60193-5226

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here].

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

richard johnson

From: richard johnson
To: richard johnson
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 5:36 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients
Representative Crane
Message text follows:

richard johnson
1258 beechwood ct
schaumburg, IL 60193-5226

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

richard johnson

From: Richard Twaddle
To: Richard Twaddle
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 4 38 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Dayton
Representative Oberstar

Message text follows:

Richard Twaddle
26646 Eagle View Drive
Bovey, MN 55709-8642

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Richard Twaddle

From: Richard Twaddle
To: Richard Twaddle
Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2003 4 38 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients.

Senator Coleman

Message text follows

Richard Twaddle
26646 Eagle View Drive
Bovey, MN 55709-8642

February 4, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service

Sincerely,

Richard Twaddle

From: Richard Adams
To: Richard Adams
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 10 13 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients

Senator Lugar

Message text follows

Richard Adams
5443 Longview Drive
Noblesville, IN 46060

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Richard C Adams

From: Richard Adams
To: Richard Adams
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2003 10 15 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients.
Representative Burton
Message text follows:

Richard Adams
5443 Longview Drive
Noblesville, IN 46060

February 3, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Richard C Adams

From: Richard Ambrosino
To: Mike Powell, 'abernat@fcc.gov', Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2003 5:24 PM
Subject: FCC Must Not Dismantle UNE-P

New Jerseyans for Technology & Economic Growth

c/o 33 West State Street, Suite 300

Trenton, New Jersey 08608

January 28, 2003

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, N.W

Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioners:

Residential and small business local phone customers could face a most devastating loss of market competition as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers wide-ranging regulatory changes to the current Unbundled Network Element Platform (UNE-P) regulations

For years, the Baby Bells operated as regulated monopolies - the only providers of local phone service in most jurisdictions. However, over the past 18 months more and more states have taken regulatory steps allowed by the federal 1996 Telecommunications Act to bring competitors into the market. Chief among those regulatory steps are UNE-P rates - the wholesale amount the Baby Bells can charge competitors to access their networks to bring service to residential and small business customers

Before we go on, it is important to point out three key facts.

- 1) The networks the Baby Bells now claim as their own were not built or paid for by them but were, in fact, paid for by ratepayers and federal subsidies during the period prior to the break-up of AT&T

- 2) The United States Supreme Court ruled in *Verizon v. FCC* that the wholesale UNE-P rates set by states to encourage competition were fair - allowing the Baby Bells to make a fair profit while providing the access needed for competitors to enter the market.

3) In return for agreeing to lower UNE-P access rates in each state, the Baby Bells are granted the ability to enter and sell long distance service in those jurisdictions, a market they were previously barred from because of their regulated monopoly status in the local phone service market.

Now, however, the Baby Bells have launched a full-scale assault on the regulations that allow states to set UNE-P rates. Using threats of job cuts and disinvestment, and a high-powered lobbying campaign, the Baby Bells seek to have you dismantle the rules established by Congress in the Telecom Act and end states' authority to set UNE-P rates that would encourage competition.

Simply put, the Baby Bells agreed to a set of rules - rules the Supreme Court said were fair -- in exchange for access to the long distance market. Once firmly implanted into the long distance marketplace, they have systematically challenged the UNE-P process in an effort to have it all: Access to the long distance market while killing new competition in the local market.

This is not what Congress intended when it passed the Telecom Act seven years ago and it is detrimental to our economy by all but forcing residential consumers and small businesses to pay more for local telephone service.

Last summer, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) forced Verizon to lower the UNE-P rate it charged competitors to access its network - making that access affordable enough for competitors to enter the market. Prior to BPU's ruling, only one local service provider offered residential service in New Jersey, giving Verizon a monopolistic 97% market share. Since the new ruling, several other providers like Sprint, AT&T and Cavalier have entered the New Jersey market. Over 100,000 consumers and small businesses have changed local phone service providers, taking advantage of better service plans, better pricing, better technology, and better customer service.

As proof that UNE-P is working to encourage competition here in New Jersey and across the country and is a key driver in a weak economy, consider these facts:

- * Over 10 million lines nationally are now being provided by new entrants to the local phone service market. The Baby Bells' market share has fallen from 6% in 1999 to 11% in June of 2002. UNE-P is critical to this new competition, but the figures prove there is still more room for competition in the marketplace.

- A report on local phone competition in New York State has shown that nearly 25% of residential and small business customers have switched providers since that state forced Verizon to lower its UNE-P rates. The studies show the average consumer is saving \$12.00 per month on local phone service - a savings of \$700 million per year.

* In Michigan, new competition because of UNE-P rate cuts forced the dominant regional Baby Bell -- SBC Ameritech - to cut its basic local phone service rate by 33%, proof that before competition local phone rates were artificially high

* A survey by the Competitive Telecommunications Association shows that if UNE-P were left in tact and true competition in the local phone market spread to all 50 states, consumers would save an estimated \$9.2 billion annually

Competition has always been an anathema to the Baby Bells. Ever since the Telcom Act was passed in 1996, the dominant providers have embarked on the use of legal maneuvers and technical tricks to thwart competition. Along the way they racked up an astonishing \$2 billion in federal and state penalties for undermining competition. The Baby Bells also broke promises to compete against one another in the newly opened local market - to date none have entered the service area of one of its siblings. Recently Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) asked the Justice Department to look into the Bells' "non-compete practices."

Stripping away the current rules that have proven to encourage competition and have stood the legal test of fairness in the Supreme Court, in exchange for vague promises to consumers of better competition sometime in the future is, in our belief, not the appropriate course of action at this time. The track record of the Baby Bells suggests the likelihood of such competition is dubious. Many others agree.

* The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) opposes the FCC rule change, saying that "working Americans employed in the telecommunications sector have a long-term interest in competition" and that the FCC's contemplated actions would end that competition.

• USA Today editorialized last week that what the Baby Bells want the FCC to do would be bad for consumers, saying "faced with the first real threat to their grip on local phone service, Verizon and the other Baby Bells are crying to the FCC that they're forced to rent their networks at a loss. They want to go back to the old way - higher fees for rivals and less choice for consumers."

* Scores of consumer and small business associations have made their position clear: Dismantling UNE-P will hurt their members by ending competition in the local phone market and, invariably, driving prices up while new technology, better service plans and improved customer service fall by the wayside - the invariable fallout from a monopolized marketplace.

* State regulators across the country have gone on record as saying that the dismantling of UNE-P would curtail competition just as it has begun to flourish and just as consumers have begun to realize cost savings.

We urge you to leave current UNE-P regulations in place to allow fledgling competition to take hold in progressive states that have set fair wholesale rates. We believe that, in time, competitors will gain strong enough positions in the local phone service market to begin investing in networks of their own. Then, unfettered competition will be born. Until that time, consumers should not be made to endure higher prices, poor customer service and dwindling service options.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter and hope you will put consumers and small businesses first.

Sincerely,

Richard Thigpen

Co-Spokesman

Patrick Torpey

Co-Spokesman

New Jerseyans for Technology & Economic Growth is a coalition of over 350 New Jersey businesses, businesses associations and individuals

whose mission is to encourage development and deployment of the latest technology, foster a competitive marketplace,

and promote a regulatory and legislative environment that enhances communications growth and advancement