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Ex parte

WC Docket 96-128

From: Rich [mailto:rmaro2@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 12:48 PM
To: Michael Copps
Subject: Congratulations/Good Luck

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ORIGINAL

Welcome aboard Chairman Copps,

I truly wish you more success than any of your predecessors. The time for change have been long coming. But the change seems to somehow revert back to the old ways. You do not know anything about me at all and I seem to know much of you from what you have done and is posted publicly.

Who am I? Well I am just another American who was in business and trying desperately to compete against the RBOC'S/Bells. When the 1996 Tel-com act was written I was elated. Now I thought all my work would be set on a level playing field. Well of course the RBOC'S with all their power, Attorneys and friends quickly put that to and end. Then they asked for extensions in the NST Rate compliance law. Yes it was given to them and they were to adjust the rates so we could be competitive. While this order was established so they could capture lucrative DIA revenue and present rates that were documented and fair. Well here we are twelve years later still waiting for them to live up to their promise's of a NST Rate that was compliant.

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Back in 2005 they was a procedural hearing where a NST compliant rate was established. Mind you long after the forty-five day extension they applied for. This extension allowed them to collect 100's of millions of dollars in revenue in exchange for a NST compliant rate. Well while be enriched each and every month they totally failed to provide us with this new rate. In the level playing field I can assure you it was never. I at one point vended Payphone to the

local 7-11's based in Nassau, Suffolk counties of L.I. NY. How odd if the playing field was level that the Bell operating company went and spoke as well as sent letters that removal of a non bell payphone would allow them a \$500.00 cash bonus for each and every phone removed. There are maybe 150 stores throughout this area and I believe I had 110 of them under contract. The question is where and why did this money come from. It came from the fact they were overcharging the PPO and had such a great advantage they could afford to put us out of business. I hung on as the store keepers were very loyal for they knew I was just like them a small company trying to survive. My company ceased to exist around 2002 when the rates were still high and Bell just said the heck with you guys we are getting our DIA and paid from you.

Truly had this been a level playing field with rates that allowed us to be competitive my son or I would most likely still be in this business. I was forced to sell my locations to a much larger company who almost absorb the cost. I listened when our President Elect Obama stated " A level playing field so competition can flourish !" Why is it they have not refunded either the DIA revenue or the overcharges to the small guys. We cannot afford to continuously fund our Attorneys as this is a very bad economy and money is tight. I am writing this letter to you for the complaint has been at the FCC for many years now. I am sure you are familiar with the waiver order and what the RBOC coalition signed and agreed to. I hope in all fairness this issue is resolved as in the fairness the law was written for. Forcing me to sell my company has placed several people out of work. Multiply this by several hundred companies and we have many thousands of good Americans out of work permanently. Me or my son would have created new business from within our business had we had fair and correct rates. The rates were anything but NST complainant. Judge Green broke the bells up so we could allow competition and growth to stimulate our economy. The Bells are once again becoming a monopoly.

Thanks you for your time and good luck,

Marotte Sr.

Richard T