

April 12, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 99-200

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 10, 2013, I spoke by phone with Priscilla Delgado, Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel, with regard to the above captioned proceeding. On April 11, 2013, I had a substantially similar conversation with Michael Steffen, Advisor to Chairman Genachowski.

I expressed concern with the proposed pilot program for the following reasons:

1. Phone numbers remain one of the few links between the provision of voice service through what all consumers think of and relate to as a phone service and Title II, which defines the responsibilities of actual phone service providers. At this very early stage in considering the PSTN transition, it is ill-advised to begin playing with one of the critical foundations of the phone system in isolation without regard to how this will impact all the moving parts.
2. It is critically important that any pilot program be clearly defined and have adequate safety precautions. Pilot programs are not simply a glide path to accepting deregulation on a trial basis. Pilot programs are designed to yield real information that informs the regulatory process. Accordingly, the program must be well defined with regard to what data is collected and its availability to the public for analysis and comment.
3. Further, there must be clear back up procedures in case problems arise with call routing and call completion. These are actual phone subscribers who depend on the reliable operation of the phone system, and who did not volunteer to participate in a trial program.
4. Finally, with regard to the NPRM, the Commission should seek comment on any potential international implications. While the FCC administers phone numbers in the U.S., we do so as part of the North American Numbering Plan, which is itself part of a broader global telephone network coordinated through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Unlike Internet numbering resources and packet routing, which lie wholly outside the scope of the ITU, telephone numbering and the completion of voice calls to TDM-based networks lie at the core of traditional telecommunications service subject to international coordination. The NPRM should therefore solicit comment on whether a decision to make phone numbers directly available to non-telecommunications providers may trigger any coordination obligations or otherwise impact the international phone system.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b), this letter is being filed with your office. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 861-0020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Harold Feld
Senior Vice President

cc: Priscilla Argeris
Michael Steffen