

## **Ohio Consumers' Counsel**

Robert S. Tongren Consumers' Counsel

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

180 East Broad St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3793 January 27, 2000

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Re: Case No. 99-1496-TP-UNC, Cincinnati Bell Waiver Requests

Dear Ms. Crockron:

Ms. Daisy Crockron Docketing Division Chief

On November 17, 1999, Cincinnati Bell Telephone (CBT) and Cincinnati Bell Long Distance (CBLD) jointly requested waivers from certain of the Commission's local service guidelines (as issued in Case No. 95-845-TP-COI). The waivers would, inter alia, allow CBT to be relieved of the burden of having a separate affiliate to compete for local service outside CBT's territory; and would also allow the "unseparated" affiliate to compete against CBT in CBT's territory. On December 1, 1999, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed Objections to the Application, stating that CBT could be granted the separate subsidiary waiver as a "pilot" if CBLD would commit to serving residential consumers outside CBT's territory. The OCC also stated that the waiver to allow affiliate-against-affiliate competition for basic local exchange service should not be granted.

On January 11, 2000, the Attorney Examiner issued an Entry inviting comment on the CBT/CBLD Application. The comments are to be filed by January 27, 2000.

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The OCC submits that the Objections to the Application filed December 1, 1999 should be considered to be comments as if freshly filed on January 27. The OCC will file Reply Comments per the Examiner's Entry.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. TONGREN CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

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CC: Attorney Examiner Daniel E. Fullin, and All Parties of Record