



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

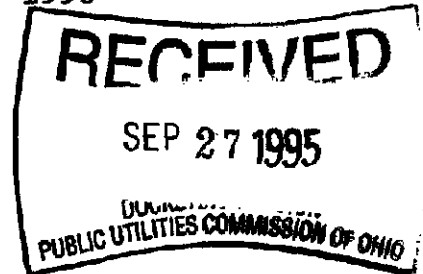
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George V. Voinovich, Governor

Craig A. Glazer, Chairman

September 14, 1995

Ms. Jacquelyn E. Way
 Assistant to the President
 Tiffin University
 155 Miami Street
 Tiffin, Ohio 44883-2161



Dear Ms. Way:

Thank you for contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to express your views regarding local telephone service competition.

Since early in this century, usually only one local exchange telephone company has provided telephone service in any particular area of the state. This monopoly environment is now changing, and consumers may soon be able to select their local telephone company much as they select their long distance carrier. While the Commission supports a fair competitive marketplace that gives consumers more choices, we remain committed to ensuring that emergency and operator service standards, as well as overall telephone service quality standards, remain high.

The Commission has considered and subsequently approved applications from Time Warner Communications of Ohio, MCI Metro Access Transmission, and MFS Intelenet of Ohio, Inc. to compete with local telephone companies in serving certain parts of the state. The first hearing on the applications had begun on May 11. On August 3, the Commission approved the application of MFS Intelenet of Ohio to operate as a local exchange telecommunications provider in areas currently served by Ameritech Ohio in all or parts of 62 of Ohio's 88 counties. On August 24, the Commission approved Time Warner's application to provide telecommunications services in all or parts of 37 Ohio counties, generally where the company already provides cable television services. On August 31, the Commission approved the application of MCI Metro to operate in all or parts of Cuyahoga, Franklin and Montgomery counties now served by Ameritech. These actions begin to provide Ohio businesses and homeowners new competitive choices in the provision of their basic telephone service.

The Commission indicated that the three companies would not be able to begin switching telephone calls until certain "generic" issues concerning local exchange competition are further developed. The Commission's staff is developing a proposal on procedures that would allow competition on the

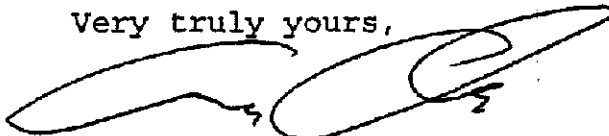
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local telephone exchange level. On April 18 of this year, a series of informal workshops on the draft proposal began at the PUCO involving parties interested in providing local telephone service, such as interexchange carriers, cable television companies, competitive telecommunication service providers, resellers, etc., as well as consumer groups. The parties are discussing a number of competition issues, including competitor certification, compensating companies for the use of their networks, telephone number portability, minimum service standard requirements, universal service, and the resale of local telephone service. After the workshops conclude, the Commission plans to open a formal investigation to consider the staff's proposal. All interested parties will then have an opportunity to officially express their concerns on local telephone competition. Informational public forums will be held around the state this fall to gain public input on these important issues.

I have directed Staff to file your letter in the Case Docket Nos. 94-1695-TP-ACE, 94-2019-TP-ACE, and 94-2012-TP-ACE; and, as a result, your comments will form a permanent part of the record in these cases.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Should you experience any utility problems in the future, please call our Consumer Services hotline at 1-800-686-PUCO (7826).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig A. Glazer', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Craig A. Glazer
Chairman

CAG:kpr

cc: Senator Karen Gillmor
Representative Rex Damschroder
Amy Brooks, PUCO Director of Legislative Affairs