

**SERVICE LIST FOR
CASE NO: TW-97-333**

Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, MO 65102
W.R. England, Sondra B. Morgan, Brydon, Swearingen & England, 312 E. Capitol Ave.,
P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
James C. Stroo, Associate General Counsel, GTE Telephone Operations, 1000 GTE Dr.,
P.O. Box 307, Wentzville, MO 63385
Craig S. Johnson, Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer, 305 E. McCarty St.,
Third Floor-Hawthorn Center, P.O. Box 1438, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Linda K. Gardner, United Telephone Company of Missouri, 5454 W. 110th St.,
Overland Park, KS 66211
Julie Grimaldi, Julie Bowles, Sprint Communications Company, 8140 Ward Parkway,
Kansas City, MO 64114
Paul G. Lane, Diana J. Harter, Leo J. Bub, Anthony K. Conroy, Southwestern Bell Telephone
Company, 100 N. Tucker Blvd., Room 630, St. Louis, MO 63101
Carl J. Lumley, Leland B. Curtis, Curtis, Oetting, Heinz, Garrett & Soule, P.C., 130 S. Bemiston,
Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63105
Stephen Morris, MCI Telecommunications Corporation, 701 Brazos, Suite 600, Austin, Texas 78701
Paul H. Gardner, Goller, Gardner & Feather, Professional Corporation, 131 E. High St.,
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Mark W. Comley, Newman, Comley & Ruth, 205 E. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 537,
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0537
Paul S. DeFord, Lathrop & Gage, L.C., 2345 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108
Larry R. Lovett, AT&T, 101 W. McCarty, Suite 216, Jefferson City, MO 65101
Mark Harper, United Telephone Company of Missouri, 5454 W. 110th St.,
Overland Park, KS 66211
Doug Trabaris, Madelon Kuchera, Elizabeth Howland, Teleport Communications Group,
233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606
Michael J. Ensrud, Competitive Telephone Association of Missouri, 6950 W. 56th St.,
Mission, KS 66202
Mark E. Long, Attorney General, **Ronald Molteni**, Assistant Attorney General, 221 W. High St.,
P.O. Box 899, Jefferson City, 65102

FILED

JAN 09 1998

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Notice of *Ex parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: November 5, 1997



On **October 22, 1997**, I received the attached document from **Roy Scheese**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Secretary
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

Adjudication Division
Public Service Commission

NOV - 6 1997

RECEIVED

To: rscheese@iland.net
From: Michelle Viebrock <mviebroc@mail.state.mo.us>
Subject: Community Optional Service (COS)
Cc: jmathews@services.state.mo.us
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

November 5, 1997

Dear Mr. Scheese:

I received your e-mail regarding Community Optional Service (COS).

Since this is an open case, I cannot comment on it. A copy of your e-mail will be filed in the case file so all Commissioners and other parties can be aware of your concern.

Sincerely,

Sheila Lumpe
Chairman

(Mr. Scheese: Since we only had an e-mail address provided, we could not mail you a copy of the order and press release regarding COS. If you would like to receive these, please e-mail me back with your U.S. mail address. Thank you!)

From: "Ray Scheese" <rscheese@iland.net>
To: <slumpe@mail.state.mo.us>
Subject: COS
Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 18:38:09 -0500
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

I cannot believe that the Public Service Commission would allow the large telephone companies take away something that we, the consumer have fought for years to have implemented. Of course I am talking about COS, the flat fee for telephone service. Evidently you and your fellow members do not live in the rural community. When you call your neighbor a half mile away and get charged long distance for a phone call just because they are in a different exchange and are serviced by a different phone company. I guess the biggest thing that disappoints me is not being notified, as a user of this system, that there were going to be hearings on this matter. I understand it was released to the news media back in March but it was not covered in our area. As an Internet subscriber through an ISP fifteen miles away, now means I will have to cancel my subscription because of the cost. And maybe the Commission can explain to my nine year old that he won't be able to call his friends as often and why he cannot explore the "Information Highway" any more.

Thank you for your time

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<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD W3 HTML//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
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Printed for Sheila Lumpe <slumpe@mail.state.mo.us>

Ex PARTE

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. (TW-97-333)

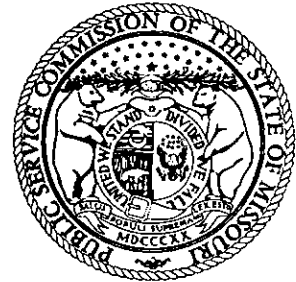
FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: November 13, 1997

FILED

JAN 09 1998

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



On November 12, I received the attached document from **Representative Matt Boatright**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. (TW-97-333). The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

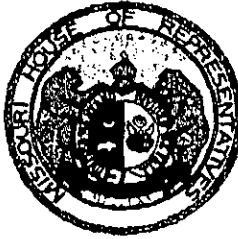
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cc: Executive Secretary
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573 • 751-9774



HOME ADDRESS
29612 Pony Path Road
Sedalla, MO 65301
816 • 826-1880

MATT BOATRIGHT
State Representative
District 118

November 12, 1997

Sheila Lumpe
Chairman
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Sheila,

I just want to strongly urge you as chairman of the Public Service Commission to go very slowly on the elimination of the C.O.S. telephone service. I have been inundated with constituent calls regarding this issue. They are very concerned about having a reasonable replacement. Since only a promise of "something better" has been offered, they are a bit skeptical.

With no real replacement for this service, I would strongly urge the Public Service Commission to not cancel C.O.S. Current subscribers deserve real options.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt Boatright".

Matt Boatright



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
573-526-5695 (TT)
<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

CECIL I. WRIGHT
Executive Secretary

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Chief Administrative Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

November 12, 1997

The Honorable Matt Boatright
29612 Pony Path Road
Sedalia, MO 65301

Matt
Dear Representative Boatright:

I hope the meetings in your area today provided information to your constituents about what is available to bring telecommunications services to them in a competitive environment.

I believe the message from both Congress and the Missouri legislature was to remove barriers to competition. Some of the current programs that are in place have subsidies built into them and companies can't compete fairly if their competitors are being subsidized.

I appreciate knowing of your concern. We will do our best in a deliberative way to fulfill the legislature's intent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheila", is written above the printed name.

Sheila Lumpe

P.S. Since this is still an open case, I will share your letter with the other Commissioners and a copy will also be placed in the official file.

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 6, 1998



On **January 5, 1998**, I received the attached documents from **Randy & Della Stewart, Casey Felin, Charles Aukerman, and James & Cecile Felin**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in these documents in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

RECEIVED

JAN 5 1998

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Sheila Lumpe:

I am writing you to say that I am opposed to the cancelling of the Community Option Service from GTE. I live near Buffalo Missouri, and call the greater Springfield area quite frequently. This service saves my family a lot of money. If this service were lost I, along with many other people, would be extremely dissapointed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Casey Felin

RECEIVED

JAN 5 1998

Dear Sheila Lumpe:

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

We are writing to express our great dissapointment in hearing that the Community Option Service from GTE may be cancelled. We live near Buffalo, Missouri, and have family, friends, and many business associates in the greater Springfield area. We use this service, and it saves all of us a great deal of money. Again, we do not want this service cancelled, and I'm sure that many people in this community feel the same.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jim and Cecile Felin

RECEIVED

JAN 5 1998

Dear Sheila Lumpe:

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

I am writing to express my great dissapointment in hearing that the Community Option Service from GTE may be cancelled. I live in Springfield Missouri, and have family and friends in Buffalo that use this service. It saves all of us a great deal of money. Again, I would like to say that I do not want this service cancelled.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Charles Aukerman

January 2, 1998

RECEIVED

JAN 5 1998

Sheila Lumpe, Chairperson
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Ms. Lumpe:

We are writing to register our opposition to the upcoming loss of our Community Option Service from GTE in March. We waited for a long time to be able to have this plan available in our area and it is quite beneficial to us. We do most of our business in Springfield and all of our doctors are there as well.

If it is not possible to continue offering this plan in our area, We would like to suggest that those of us already on the plan be grandfathered in.

We want to thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy & Della Stewart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatories.

Randy and Della Stewart
Rt. 4 Box 50
Galena, MO 65656

Ex Parte *Jale*

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333

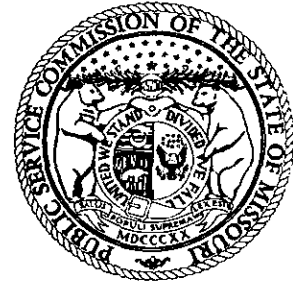
FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: November 5, 1997

FILED

JAN 09 1998

**MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



On **November 2, 1997**, I received the attached document from **J.R. Greer**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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cc: Executive Secretary
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
573-526-5695 (TT)
<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

CECIL I. WRIGHT
Executive Secretary

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Chief Administrative Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

November 5, 1997

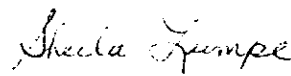
J.R. Greer
Greer's Drafting Service
11002 N. King Rd.
Marshall, MO 65340

Dear Mr. Greer:

I received your e-mail regarding Community Optional Service (COS).

Since this is an open case, I cannot comment on it. A copy of your e-mail will be filed in the case file so all Commissioners and other parties can be aware of your concern.

Sincerely,


Sheila Lumpe

Enclosures

cc: Senator Jim Mathewson

From: "J. R. Greer" <draftgds@iland.net>
To: "Jim Mathewson" <jmathews@services.state.mo.us>
Cc: "s Lumpe" <slumpe@mail.state.mo.us>,
"Matt Boatright" <mboatrig@services.state.mo.us>
Subject: Mo Public Service Commission vs COS service from local carrier
Date: Sun, 2 Nov 1997 21:14:39 -0600
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

I am writing in response to recent information about the possible elimination of COS telephone access to (in my case) Sedalia, MO. I have a business in my home that relies on the internet service to my customers and if this service were to be eliminated, by my last few statements, I would be spending around \$75 more per month. My business can not afford this, and I would be forced to pass this on to my customers. I understand that my local carrier can offer the internet service to me, but I am not excited about changing my address.

I would appreciate any consideration that you can give to this situation in my behalf. I understand that there are several other members of our community that vote and are concerned about the same issue.

Won't you please consider our position in this matter and stop this from happening?

Thank you for your help.

J. R. Greer
Greer's Drafting Service
11002 N. King Rd.
Marshall, MO 65340
660/879-4465

File in Ex Parte

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. (TW-97-333)

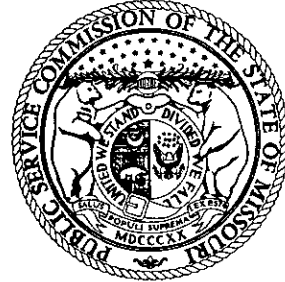
FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: November 20, 1997

FILED

JAN 09 1998

**MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



On **November 20, 1997**, I received the attached document from **Sen. James L. Mathewson**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. (TW-97-333). The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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cc: Executive Secretary
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



RECEIVED

NOV 20 1997

JAMES L. (JIM) MATHEWSON
SENATOR, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT
89TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 323
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101
(573) 751-4771
TDD (573) 751-3969

142 SOUTH LIMIT
SEDALIA, MISSOURI 65301-3655

MISSOURI SENATE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

COMMITTEES:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE & ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL & GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
INSURANCE & HOUSING
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
RULES, JOINT RULES & RESOLUTIONS

November 19, 1997

Mrs. Sheila Lumpe
Chairman
Public Service Commission
Truman Building, Room 530
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Chairman Lumpe:

I want to register my strong objections to your recent decision to terminate Community Optional Service and urge you to reconsider the decision. I believe the decision is not in the public interest and should be reversed or at least postponed until there is a realistic indication that competition is coming into the areas.

In conversations with a Commissioner, PSC staff and in your press release, the main reason given for eliminating COS was to prepare for competition—but there is no evidence that there are any telecommunication firms prepared to compete in most of the areas where COS exists. In formal surveys done by citizens, there are no alternative providers prepared to offer competitive local service nor are there any comparable alternatives for COS. Importantly, because many of the areas with COS are not digital, I am told it will be more than five years before any competition can develop.

My research suggests that the recent federal telecommunications act encourages competition but also calls for universal service. Universal dial tone service does very little good if there are very few people to call. In the affected areas virtually all fire, police and government services are in other communities and most of the business and personal calls will become toll calls without COS.

As you probably know, the federal act also calls for comparable service to be available in the metropolitan and rural areas. Since hundreds of thousands of telephone subscribers in St. Louis and Kansas City have metropolitan calling area plans available, how can you decide to eliminate this comparable service in rural areas? If this is to prepare for competition, isn't it more likely that the urban areas will have competition first? It seems that the facts would suggest that you eliminate that service in the urban areas first.



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
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ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLLIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Chief Administrative Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

November 20, 1997

The Honorable James L. Mathewson
State Capitol
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Senator *Jim* Mathewson:

I received your letter expressing your concerns over the ending of the Community Option Service in March 1998. The Commission will be exploring through public hearings around the state, solutions to providing Internet service that does not impede competition.

I believe the message from both Congress and the Missouri legislature was to remove barriers to competition. Some of the current programs that are in place have subsidies built into them and companies can't compete fairly if their competitors are being subsidized.

I appreciate knowing of your concern. We will do our best in a deliberative way to fulfill the legislature's intent.

Sincerely,

Sheila Lumpe
Sheila Lumpe

P.S. Since this is still an open case, I will share your letter with the other Commissioners and a copy will also be placed in the official file.

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

FILED

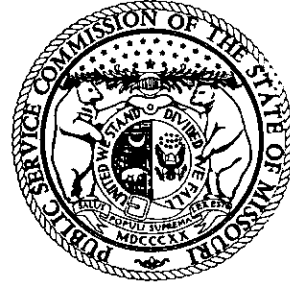
JAN 09 1998

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 9, 1998



On **January 9, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Micky Leake (via Representative Marilu Sallee)**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



RECEIVED TRANSMITTAL
JAN 7 1998

Date: January 6, 1998

DIVISION OF FINANCE
STATE OF MISSOURI

Phone (417) 256-2771 Fax: (417) 257-2605

TO: State Rep. Marilu Sallee

PAID
4:30pm

We are sending

- ☐ Purc
☐ Drawi
☒ Letter
☐ Other

*Missouri Dept.
of Economic
Development*

ATTENTION: _____

Project Name: GTE / COS

This Fax Transmittal consists of 2 pages including this transmittal letter. If you did not receive all these pages, please call ASAP.

REMARKS: I heard from our Internet provider that you support the efforts to stop GTE from discontinuing the Calling Optional Service (COS). I spoke to a woman with the Commission on 1/2/98, regarding our COS for the area surrounding West Plains. As yet she has not returned my call, after doing some checking. I am forwarding a copy of the letter I drafted after my phone call with her, giving some background on our local phone service, and the problems and expenses this will cause for me personally, my employer, and several of the neighbors in our immediate area. I would greatly appreciate any input/advice you could offer. If GTE does indeed discontinue COS for Missouri (is this a nationwide move by GTE?), this is going to create severe hardship for a great many people. If GTE is discontinuing COS to cut their losses from long distance usage on the Internet, are they not penalizing only a small portion of their customers for everyone's Internet usage? I can be reached via e-mail <micky.emr@townsq.com>, phone (417) 256-2771, or fax (417) 257-2605. I would appreciate a fax number, and possibly a name, for the Missouri Public Service Commission, so I can send this letter to them.

cc: West Plains Chamber of Commerce
Town Square Internet, Inc.

Dept. of Economic Dev.

Senator Doyle Childers

State Rep. Chuck Purgason

Howell County Probation Commissioner

BY: Micky Leake

January 5, 1998

To: Missouri Public Service Commission *phone 800-392-4211*
Re: GTE's intent to discontinue Calling Optional Service

From: Micky Leake
4192 County Road 7640, West Plains, MO 65775
Home phone: (417) 284-3864

Our house is located between Highways JJ and E, ^{east} ~~west~~ of Moody, Missouri. For many years we suffered through a four-party phone system in this area, and were patient with GTE's promise of private phone lines "next year". It took almost 18 years from the time I moved to southern Missouri before we did indeed have single-user phone service. During the transition, everyone in this area endured months of severed phone lines, poor reception, etc.

Several times people in our area circulated petitions to GTE, hoping that we would be put on West Plains phone service (prefix 256). The neighbors across JJ Highway have West Plains phone service, as do many people in South Fork, the nearest town northwest of here. Even those neighbors less than a mile north of us have West Plains phone service. Several people in Douglas County, over 35 miles from here have West Plains phone service. Ours is an isolated area, much closer to West Plains than Caulfield, which is in Ozark County, that still carries the Caulfield phone prefix, 284.

Last year we invested \$1,500 in a home computer system, with the express intent of gaining and utilizing Internet access, through Town Square Internet, Inc., in West Plains, Missouri. We added Calling Optional Service (COS) to our phone service, so that the call to Town Square Internet would not be a toll call. Since that time we have upgraded our home computer, and my employer has invested over \$4,000 in a new computer system, so that I can access the work computer from our home. We live on a hilly gravel road, and our road is frequently impassible with heavy winter snows or heavy rains.

If GTE does discontinue the COS for our area, we will not only have to give up our Internet access, since it will be a toll call to the only Internet provider in this area, but the \$5,500 invested by myself and my employer will be useless for the purpose intended, Internet access from one computer to the other. If GTE would give us the West Plains phone service we have been requesting for years (which stops less than a mile from our house), we could still utilize this technology. By discontinuing COS, we are being denied Internet access by our only choice for phone service in this area.

Please contact me during the day at (417) 256-2771 to help me resolve this problem fairly.

Sincerely,
Micky Leake

RECEIVED

JAN 7 1998

DIVISION OF FINANCE
STATE OF MISSOURI

COS

file: comm'n correspondence

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners
All Parties in Case No. (TW-97-333)

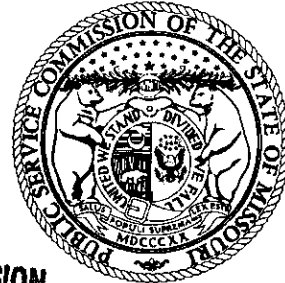
FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: November 14, 1997

FILED

JAN 09 1998

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



On **November 13**, I received the attached document from **Representative Ted Farnen**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **(TW-97-333)**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

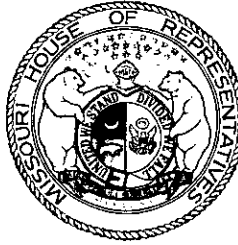
Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Secretary
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol • Room 236B
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573 • 751-9458

DISTRICT ADDRESS
201 S. Muldrow
Mexico, MO 65265
573 • 581-1000



TED FARNEN
State Representative
District 21

RECEIVED

Nov. 10, 1997

NOV 13 1997

COMMITTEES

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Joint Committee on
Correctional Institutions &
Problems

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Agri-Business

VICE CHAIRMAN:
Higher Education

Appropriations • Education &
Public Safety
Elections

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Sheila Lumpe, Chairwoman
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Sheila:

I'm writing to you today for two reasons. One is to voice my disappointment with the Public Service Commission's decision to phase out the Community Optional Service telephone plans, and, secondly, to ask you to reconsider your decision.

If the PSC ruling stands, the COS plans will be phased out by April of next year. This could have a devastating effect on many people in my district and in many rural areas of the state.

In a press release distributed by the PSC, the main reason given for eliminating the COS requirement is that not enough people participate in the plans. That is certainly not true in my area. In Centralia, nearly one-third of the eligible customers participate in the plan, and the percentage is the same for the community of Clark. In Sturgeon, nearly *one-half* of the eligible customers subscribe to the plan. These are significant numbers by anyone's standards.

The press release also stated that because of new implementation of intra-LATA calls, phone companies such as GTE would be unable to determine if there is a need for such a service. Again, in this part of the state the need is clear. COS is a popular option and many citizens want to be able to continue to subscribe to it.

I realize that you have many federal mandates that you must follow, and I know that you are trying to do what's best for Missouri's telecommunications consumers. I also know that you believe that getting rid of this mandate will make it easier for consumers to have more choices. The fact is, however, that you are eliminating a choice that is widely popular in my area. Why is the PSC so anxious to get rid of something that actually works?

And even though you can encourage phone companies such as GTE to continue to offer a COS-type plan to its customers, there is absolutely no assurance that they will. In effect, the PSC's decision leaves citizens in my area out in the cold, and there is no guarantee that any of the phone companies will pick up that slack.

Some of the state's smaller telephone companies and the Office of Public Counsel have filed motions for the PSC to reconsider its decision. I urge you to abide by their wishes and have new hearings to hear from the many people who will be affected by the elimination of the COS plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Farnen".
Rep. Ted Farnen



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
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<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

CECIL I. WRIGHT
Executive Secretary

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Chief Administrative Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

November 14, 1997

The Honorable Ted Farnen
201 S. Muldrow
Mexico, MO 65265

Dear Representative ^{Ted}Farnen:

I received your letter expressing your concerns over the ending of the Community Option Service in March 1998. The Commission will be exploring through public hearings around the state, solutions to providing Internet service that does not impede competition.

I believe the message from both Congress and the Missouri legislature was to remove barriers to competition. Some of the current programs that are in place have subsidies built into them and companies can't compete fairly if their competitors are being subsidized.

I appreciate knowing of your concern. We will do our best in a deliberative way to fulfill the legislature's intent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila".

Sheila Lumpe

P.S. Since this is still an open case, I will share your letter with the other Commissioners and a copy will also be placed in the official file.