

January 25, 2005

Representative Ray Weter
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 400CB
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Weter;

We, residents of Rockaway Beach, Merriam Woods Village and Bull Creek Village, are seeking your assistance with the changing of the (417) 561-XXXX telephone exchange to local calling ability to Forsyth and Branson, MO exchanges.

For those of us that live in the above-mentioned communities, Branson is where our schools, most jobs and doctors and the local hospital are located. For years we had been charged up to \$25.00 to have two-way calling to Branson. Recently, that service has been reduced to one-way calling with no basic reduction in rate. This service has been optional for those that thought they could afford such a fee. For the rest of the communities, this proved to be too much of a financial hardship.

Basic reasoning to include the Forsyth, MO in the calling plan is simply that Forsyth, MO is our county seat of government. The fair City of Forsyth is much closer to us than the City of Branson in mileage. There are many of us in the 561-XXXX exchange that have daily business in the Forsyth area and are extremely frustrated with the fact that it is long distance to call sometimes, literally, across the street or just a couple of miles away.

We feel that the excessive fees assessed for the privilege to call another exchange have discouraged economic growth, both business and residential from coming to our area. Other areas around Branson, some much farther away than our communities are not assessed such large fees. Since the fees are not assessed other exchanges at the rate they are to us, we feel that the actions taken by the phone company are unfair and may be discriminatory. We shouldn't be penalized simply based upon where we reside.

Originally, this project began in 2000 with a petition drive. A petition was resubmitted in 2001 with approximately 1200 signatures. This project was finally assigned a case number in 2003. With the long time frame already in existence with this project, any assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely;

Michael Huckaby

Resident of Merriam Woods Village, MO
(417) 561-4271

Attachment A



John B. Coffman
Public Counsel

State of Missouri

FILE COPY

Matt Blunt
Governor

Office of the Public Counsel
Governor Office Bldg. Suite 650
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Telephone: 573-751-4857
Facsimile: 573-751-5562
Relay Missouri
1-800-735-2966 TDD
1-800-735-2466 Voice

May 16, 2005

Margaret Osterday
220 W Glendale
Rockaway Beach, MO 65740

Dear Ms. Osterday:

Public Counsel, the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff, and CenturyTel, together with some community leaders, have discussed options for expanded calling in an effort to develop a feasible and affordable plan that can meet the calling needs of the area. CenturyTel is assembling some data regarding costs and possible rates and the parties will again meet in early June to discuss the plan.

Public Counsel, after consultation with the local communities, proposed a mandatory expanded calling plan that would include Rockaway Beach, Forsythe, Kimberling City, Reed Springs, and Branson at an additional monthly cost of \$3.00 above the charge for local service. The scope of the calling area and the proposed price are not final and are subject to review.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any additional questions.

Very truly yours,

Michael F. Dandino
Senior Public Counsel

MFD:kh

Attachment B