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MPSC Supports Appeal of Local Phone Competition Court Ruling

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The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today issued a statement in support of the majority of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to instruct their General Counsel to seek a stay and to appeal to the Supreme Court a recent D.C. Circuit decision. The decision vacated the rules the FCC promulgated last year. The vacated FCC rules allowed states to determine when local telephone competition is sufficient in a given market to remove requirements on SBC and Verizon to make elements of their network available to competitors at certain prices.

"These requirements have allowed Michigan ratepayers to experience the benefits of one of the most competitive local telephone markets in the United States," said MPSC Chair J. Peter Lark. "We believe it is imperative that the states and the FCC seek a ruling from the highest court of the land on this important issue," said Chair Lark.

The MPSC will be working with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) on the appeal of the ruling.

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 and its members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate the activities of telecommunications, energy, and water utilities.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

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