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Testimony before IPUC on Thursday, March 6, 03  
Kent Just and Dave McAlindin

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of Qwest Communications and their application to become deregulated at the local level. My name is Kent Just, EVP of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce located at 858 Blue Lakes Blvd N. My remarks today also reflect the thoughts of Dave McAlindin, Economic Development Director for the City of Twin Falls who was unable to attend this afternoon. I am here today as someone involved in the economic development community who understands the importance of government policy as it relates to how

Our relationship with Qwest in recent years has been an effective partnership in bringing much needed telecommunications services to businesses and residents of the city. Qwest has invested millions in switches and upgrades that have brought hi-speed broadband service that keeps us on par with other communities. We are most appreciative of that and with the prompt attention we receive when requested in the process of recruiting new firms that bring hundreds of jobs to our community. When we need input from Qwest personnel they are immediately ready to answer questions and provide solutions to prospective firms communications needs.

The telecommunications industry is changing rapidly and only those companies with the best business plans and the capability of adjusting to market demands can survive. They need a competitive environment that encourages innovation and investment in Idaho.

In recruiting new firms and top quality jobs to Idaho, we need to be able to deliver the most advanced telecommunications services available. This requires large investments in infrastructure and although Qwest has already made huge investments to build a strong network, I have concerns that if government regulation is too heavy and does not adjust with changes in the telecommunications industry, there will be less incentive to make further investment.

But this request is really one of fairness. We have seen deregulation happen in the state and nationally in many industries over the last several years. And we have seen new competition come into the market to offer services that are competitive in nature with what Qwest offers but without the problem of regulated pricing. Government policy that levels the playing field and fosters competition will benefit the state because competitors will work harder to win us over as customers with lower prices and better customer service.

What family or business does not have one or more cell phones nowadays and how many are deciding they need not have a landline. A cell phone will fill their needs. My own daughter, a working mom with obligations like the rest of us does not see the need to invest in a telephone beyond her cell. I would prefer she did have land line service, but she figures her budget very closely and even though she would like to have that service, sees the current pricing structure out of her reach. Deregulation may or may not bring the local service charges by Qwest down, but they would have the option to compete for her business at a competitive level and that is proper.

I believe that the Qwest Communications application follows the intent of the 1997 legislative action that allows for a transition from monopoly control of telecommunications to an open marketplace. I urge the IPUC to consider the economic development implications to the state as you make your decision. Again, as companies look at my community and all of Idaho as a place to invest capital, the incentives and disincentives created by government policy are strongly considered.

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2003 10:48 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, March 06, 2003  
10:47:30 PM

Case: qwe-t-02-25  
Name: David Panton  
Street\_Address: 712 west maple  
City: pocatello  
State: id  
ZIP: 83201  
Home\_Telephone: 23200296  
E-Mail: panton\_david@msn.com  
Company: Qwest

mailing\_list\_yes\_no: no

Comment\_description: The deregulation process does seem necessary for Qwest to stay in competition with Wireless Companies having the ability to lower their prices to lure customers away from Qwest, I Support the deregulation of Qwest's rates, hopefully they will decrease to show that they want to gain the customers that they have lost in past months

Transaction ID: 362247.30  
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User Address: 67.250.109.28  
User Hostname: 67.250.109.28