



IDAHO STATE CWA COUNCIL

RECEIVED
FILED



2003 JUN -2 AM 8: 53

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington St.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: Docket QWE-T-02-25

Dear Commissioners:

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) is the labor union representing approximately 1,000 telecommunications employees in Idaho. Our members have a long and dedicated history of providing telephone service in Idaho.

During that time, we have seen many changes that have impacted what we do. Technology has changed, competition has developed, and customers' have become more aware of the choices they have for telephone service.

One of those choices - cellular service - has had a dramatic impact on our business. As customers choose to replace a landline with a wireless line, or they choose a wireless service to begin with, this means less work for our CWA members. Reduced workloads mean you need fewer people to do the work.

While the major employer of our members in Idaho (Qwest) has avoided significant layoffs in Idaho in the past couple of years, and recent attrition in our traditional network jobs has been more than offset by the addition of jobs in the DSL technical support center, this scenario is somewhat unique. Not all states where Qwest operates have been so fortunate. While the core business of the company (access lines) has been declining, we believe the regulatory environment and business climate in Idaho have something to do with the fact that we have been able to retain jobs here.

Qwest has filed an application to price deregulate its local telephone service in seven of its largest exchanges. As you evaluate this application, we encourage you to consider the potential impact on jobs of allowing Qwest the same flexibility to compete that its competitors have. While removing regulation will not guarantee Qwest success, nor will it guarantee CWA members jobs, it will ensure that unnecessary government regulation was not the reason for their failure or loss of jobs.

During the monopoly days, regulation served this industry well for a long time. Quite simply, this business is not a monopoly anymore - customers have choices and they are exercising them. Yet, the company's basic telephone service is still regulated as if it were the only game in town. That is not right and it is not good policy to treat one company so different than it's competitors.

CWA locals 7621, 7603 and 7610, on behalf of our approximately 1,000 members in Idaho, support Qwest's application and encourage the Commission's approval.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Marsden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dirk Marsden
Idaho State CWA Council President
Representing
CWA Local 7621 Idaho Falls-Pocatello
CWA Local 7603 Boise
CWA Local 7610 Twin Falls

✓ To Commus Staff ✓ To H. Drive



700 W. WASHINGTON
BOX 1623, BOISE, IDAHO 83701
PHONE: (208) 345-9126
FAX: (208) 345-0379

3 June 2003

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Re: Qwest Price Deregulation Application

Dear Commissioners:

RECEIVED
FILED
2003 JUN -3 PM 3:09
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

We write to you today in support of Qwest Communication's application for price deregulation of local service in seven metropolitan areas in southern Idaho.

Idaho's county governments are dedicated to providing essential services to their constituents and encourage a strong private sector environment for business. Qwest's application indicates the deployment of high-speed Internet service in ten additional communities in Idaho over the next three years, upon approval of this proposal. This is the type of investment Idaho's counties work to attract every day.

As you consider Qwest's application, please also consider the economic development and telecommunications investments that could result. With this new investment, Idaho's counties are optimistic that government, business and education all will benefit.

We appreciate the Commission's work on behalf of the people of Idaho to bring new technology for Idaho and her citizens. Thank you for your favorable consideration of Qwest's application.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Chadwick, Executive Director



✓ To Comm. Staff
✓ To H. Drive

Association of Idaho Cities

3314 Grace Street, Boise, ID 83703
Telephone (208) 344-8594
Fax (208) 344-8677
www.idahocities.org

RECEIVED
FILED



2003 JUN -3 PM 12:44

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 3, 2003

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Commissioners:

The Association of Idaho Cities was founded in 1947 and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation, organized to serve Idaho's city governments. The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) is the single most important advocacy group for Idaho's 200 incorporated cities. AIC is involved on a daily basis in activities which promote the interests of city officials and the communities they serve.

We are writing about the Qwest application (QWE-T-02-25) that is being considered by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. A priority of the AIC is encouraging an enhanced telecommunications network throughout the state of Idaho. A strong telecommunications network is an effective tool for city officials in attracting new business, expanding existing businesses and attracting new jobs. Qwest has filed testimony with its application that commits to additional broadband deployment, continuation of the Idaho Telephone Assistance Program and other low priced local service options, and the continuation of its obligation to provide service to any customer in its service area. These commitments, combined with a positive history of working with Qwest and its predecessor companies, have led us to ask you to seriously consider this application.

The AIC recognizes that the IPUC would not be granting full deregulation in approving this application. However, the IPUC would be taking a step in welcoming Qwest and other telecommunications providers to invest and bring additional telecommunications technology to Idaho. We view this as a policy change that will positively affect the whole state, without committing new tax dollars or putting a financial burden on cities and communities.

We appreciate the fact that the IPUC is considering input from organizations such as the Association of Idaho Cities in making its decision on this application. Our interest in this issue is a direct reflection of our desire to expand the opportunities for the cities of Idaho.

Sincerely,

Ken Harward, Executive Director