

May 27, 2003

Ms. Carole J. Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98540-7250

Re: Qwest Petition for Competitive Classification, Docket No. UT-030614

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The Independent Business Association representing small businesses across Washington State oppose approval of the Petition by Qwest Corporation Requesting Competitive Classification of Basic Business Exchange Telecommunications Services and asks the Commission to suspend this request for a complete review and also schedule the matter for public hearings. This proposal is very significant and will affect about two-thirds of the small businesses operating in Washington State. Implementation of this request by Qwest Corporation could result in serious hardships for many small businesses in Washington State. The Independent Business Association does not believe that true competition for business telephone service exists in the local dial-tone service area served by Qwest.

The Staff of the Commission Staff has recommended in its memorandum to the Commission that this petition be suspended. The Independent Business Association agrees and supports the suspension recommendation of the staff.

Sincerely,

Gary Smith
Executive Director