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June 17, 1996

Mr. Donald W. McLeod
Vice President
Regulatory and Government Affairs - East
Local Competition/Interconnection Program Office
GTE Telephone Operations
HQE01E63
P.O. Box 152092
Irving, Texas 75015-2092

Dear Mr. McLeod,

AT&T requests the commencement of negotiations under Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for the states of Arkansas and South Carolina. This request includes all interconnection issues enumerated in Sections 251 and 252, including prices and terms for network elements used for the origination and completion of interexchange services traffic. My expectation is that our companies can come to a mutually acceptable arrangement through negotiations as envisioned by the Act.

In accordance with the Telecommunications Act, the formal date for commencement of the negotiations for Arkansas and South Carolina would be the day after receipt of this letter. Consistent with the ongoing national negotiations for the twenty-two states already notified, we propose that the negotiations be held on a combined basis and at a corporate level and that they include CONTEL.

We realize there are a significant number of issues to resolve. We are confident that with a concerted and cooperative spirit, we can resolve these issues in a mutually agreeable manner.

Sincerely,

Copy to: GTE
M. L. Billings
F. W. Compton
J. C. Peterson
C. E. Nicholas
M. C. Seaman

AT&T
J. J. Beasley
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