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October 12, 1990

Utilities and Transportation Commission Chandler Plaza Bldg. FY-ll 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW Olympia, WA 98504

Sirs:

I strongly support the proposed measures which would eliminate the rampant abuse of consumers who, when placing calls on privately-owned pay phones, find to their disbelief that they are actually **prevented** from accessing their preferred phone company when dialing directly.

I refer to an actual happening of the above on August 18, 1990 at a pay phone at the 4th St. Market & Deli in Marysville, Washington at 11:31 AM. This pay phone is operated by Paytel NW Inc.

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Only when I **insisted** on speaking with an AT&T operator was I able to place the call according to my preferences. My attempts at dialing directly, using my AT&T access code, failed completely when the phone ceased accepting my dialing before I was finished!. Infuriated, I contacted AT&T when I returned home and was informed that this is an illegal practice. Is this true?

If there is a way to protect the consumer, then go to it, fellows, with my support!

Sincerely,

Lisa Bergman