



WASHINGTON

April 2, 2003

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington state members of the National Federation of Independent Business in strong opposition to the proposed \$27.9 million Verizon rate increases contained in the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Docket No. UT-020406.

Specifically, NFIB members oppose WUTC Docket No. UT-020406, section 3, subsection 1., b. Reduce the current number of free directory assistance calls by one for residential and business customers; c. Increase the directory assistance billed rate to \$1.25; e. Increase business B1 rates by \$2.50 per month; f. Increase private line 2-wire rate to \$29.15, increase 4-wire private line rate to \$45.47, increase digital data service rate to \$105.25, and increase special transport for above items to \$5.12.

NFIB members feel strongly that in order for a rate increase to be granted, Verizon should go through the normal rate increase proceedings. Allowing a rate increase through a settlement bypasses important stakeholder participation and scrutiny. Allowing a rate increase in this manner sets a bad precedent.

Small business owners are struggling in this tough recession and increasing their cost of doing business only further erodes their ability to make a living and in some cases keep their doors open.

We strongly encourage you to reject the rate increase settlement. Thank you for your consideration. I am requesting to be added to the notification and mailing list regarding this case.

Sincerely,

Mark Johnson  
Assistant State Director  
National Federation of Independent Business