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22 August 1998

Study on Fair Rates (No. 98000A-SP)
Division Of Records and Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

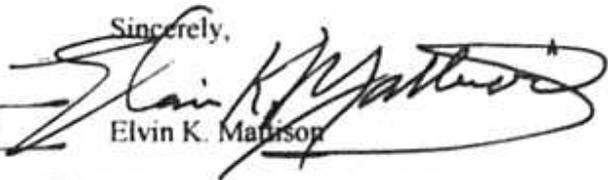
Dear Sirs:

I am unable to attend any of the Public Hearings on fair telephone rates because of a handicap condition.

Two concerns are important to me. (1) The breakup of local and long distance companies has caused my monthly telephone expenses to double. It seems to me that this action has caused total confusion with all the different rates and programs. It has not been a help to the consumer, only to the telephone companies. (2) The basic rates have remained fair but all of the additional fees and taxes increase my local service from the basic rate of \$8.33 to \$17.28. Now on the long distance fees I find a new fee to help provide service to libraries and schools. I feel they should take care of their own bills rather than making every customer pay for it. AT & T has just announced a new \$3.00 basic service fee for all new customers that will eventually be added to all our bills.

Why not return to the original plan where one company provides the local and long distance service for an area, reduce the extra taxes and eliminate the excessive fees like, "non-regulated service," and "Network access" that are making our telephone bills so high.

Sincerely,



Elvin K. Mattison

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