

Ms. Fran Knabbe  
485 Chester Street  
Uniondale, New York 11553  
August 11, 1998

RECEIVED  
FLORIDA PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION  
98 AUG 17 AM 8 12  
MAIL ROOM

Study on Fair Rates (No. 980000A-SP)  
Division of Records and Reporting  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Gentlemen:

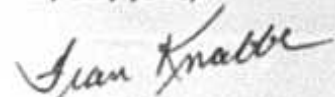
I am writing to you regarding your study and report to the legislature on telecommunication rates. I also want to specifically express my opinion to you on the "Gore-Tax," referred by you in my most recent phone bill as the "Universal Service Fund."

Generally speaking, I am pleased with the residential telecommunication service provided to me and think the rates fair.

I am, however, totally disgusted with Congress and all the telecommunication companies on the issue of the "Gore-Tax." The stated purpose of this phone tax is to carry out Gore's pet project of connecting every public school classroom and library to the Internet. Please note that the majority of schools are already connected to the Internet. It concerns me that already there is a grant writing frenzy to tap into these funds for things so remotely connected to the Internet that I wonder what accounting the general public will have for how these monies are spent. Will another Gore fundraiser (like Mr. Ira Fishman) receive a salary of \$150,000? An even greater concern of mine, and I would hope of the Telecommunications companies throughout our country, is what price will we all pay once the feds finance the Internet? It would seem that they then are in a better position of controlling the curriculum. What's next? Will we all have to register with the federal government to go on-line?

Finally and most disturbingly, telecommunication companies are being USED while Congress shrugs off their responsibility to be the source of taxing the American public. It is Congress' duty to impose taxes; on this phone tax, Congress is hiding behind the skirts of your industry.

Very truly yours,



(Ms.) Fran Knabbe

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

08711 AUG 17 98

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