S. Stern 41-72 Judge Street Elmhurst, NY 11373

ORIGINAL

August 17, 1998

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

Dear Sirs:

I will be unable to attend any of your scheduled meetings regarding BellSouth rates, but I would like to know how Bell South can raise its Residential Message Rate Line charge from \$5.34 (up to July 1998) to \$6.30 in August 1998. This represents an increase of about 17% and is in addition to recent Carrier Line charges and Universal Connectivity charges imposed on telephone customers.

There seems to be no end of what the consumer has to pay for a vital service. I realize that you are not responsible for the Carrier Line and Universal Connectivity charges; however, they all impact on the monthly cost of a basic and necessary service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

s. stern

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