

FILE COPY



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STATE OF FLORIDA
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c/o The Florida Legislature
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August 9, 1996

Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 960776-TL

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are the original and 15 copies of Citizens' Opposition to Frontier's Request to Increase Local Rates and Motion to Hold Public Hearing.

Please indicate the time and date of receipt on the enclosed duplicate of this letter and return it to our office.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Beck
Charles J. Beck
Deputy Public Counsel

- ACK
- AFA 1
- APP _____
- CAF _____
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Enclosures

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DOCUMENT CONTROL DATE
08386 AUG-96
REPORTING

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition of Frontier
Communications of the South,
Inc. for a limited scope
proceeding to change its
existing rate relationships)
)
)
)
)

Docket No. 960776-TL
Filed: August 9, 1996

CITIZENS' OPPOSITION TO FRONTIER'S REQUEST TO INCREASE LOCAL RATES AND MOTION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING

The Citizens of Florida ("Citizens"), by and through Jack Shreve, Public Counsel, file this opposition to Frontier's request to increase local rates and move the Florida Public Service Commission to hold a hearing in Frontier's service area concerning its local rate increase request.

1. On June 26, 1996, Frontier Communications of the South, Inc. ("Frontier") filed a petition in which it seeks to voluntarily give up money it now receives from Southern Bell and, in its place, increase its customers' local rates.

2. Frontier ignores the fact that the Commission recently set up interim universal service mechanism, as required by section 364.025(2), Florida Statutes (1995). Frontier should be seeking relief under that provision if it wishes to forego money it now receives from Southern Bell.

3. Frontier's request is, in any event, premature. The

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Federal-State Board is now reviewing universal service mechanisms pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Its report is due in November, 1996, and will be followed shortly thereafter by action from the Federal Communications Commission.

4. Florida is also reviewing universal service mechanisms. Pursuant to section 364.025(6), Florida Statutes (1995), the Office of Public Counsel will be making a report to the Florida Public Service Commission by October 1, 1996, on whether the interim mechanism should continue to serve as a means of assisting in the funding of universal service objectives and carrier of last resort obligations or if a different mechanism is needed. The Commission will make a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than January 1, 1997. Section 364.025(4), Florida Statutes (1995). The legislature will thereafter establish a permanent mechanism. Id.

5. In the case of general rate increase requests, Commission Rule 25-22.0406 requires customers to receive a comprehensive notice concerning the request to increase rates. The Commission also conducts public hearings in the area served by the company. Since this request involves a significant local rate increase adversely affecting the substantial interests of Frontier's customers, the Commission should hold a public hearing in the area

served by Frontier concerning the company's request to increase local rates.

WHEREFORE, the Citizens oppose Frontier's request to increase local rates and move the Commission to hold a hearing in Frontier's service area concerning Frontier's request.

Respectfully submitted,

JACK SHREVE
Public Counsel



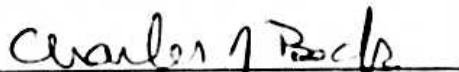
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Attorney for the Citizens
of the State of Florida

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 960776-TL**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail or hand-delivery to the following parties on this 9th day of August, 1996.



Charles J. Beck

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