

ORIGINAL

513 Dunblane Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792-4616
8 August 1998

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

Dear Sir or Madame:

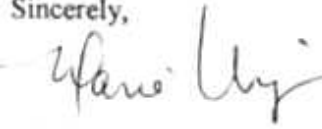
This letter is sent to address the FPSC study of Florida local residential telephone service rates. Although one can split hairs all day long on a few cents more or less on individual line items, the net effect is that telephone service is so unaffordable that it is cheaper to use pay phones, even with their recently increased rates. My family pays roughly \$45 monthly for the privilege of making a few phone calls and listening to solicitors constantly, and this is of course exclusive of long distance service.

It seems to us that every time anyone legislates anything having to do with telephone service, that rates increase. Just a 'few years' ago our usual phone bill was \$26 monthly. Now phone companies use any excuse they can find to constantly increase rates, everything from deregulation to FCC network access charges to Universal Funds to help schools to And of course, every municipality wants their share of the pie as well, resulting in federal, state and local taxes, franchise taxes, gross receipts taxes, county 911 service charges, and so on.

Please consider evaluating local residential rates in terms of total charges to consider where and how you can give Florida residents a break. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Marie H. King



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