

**NEWS RELEASE**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®**

**AFL-CIO-CLC**

1125 Fifteenth St. N.W.  
Washington DC 20005



[www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)

Edwin D. Hill, International President

Jeremiah J. O'Connor, International Secretary-Treasurer

For Immediate Release  
March 3, 2004

Contact: Jim Spellane  
202-728-6014

**Statement of IBEW President Edwin D. Hill  
On D.C. Circuit Court Decision on FCC Policy**

The decision by the D.C. Circuit court to undercut the Federal Communications Commission's policy on open markets in the telecommunications industry is a blow for working people.

If there is one thing that we learned from the last eight years, it is that allowing more companies to compete for local as well as long distance phone service not only saves consumers billions of dollars, but also spurs investment in telecom infrastructure and creates badly needed growth and job opportunities.

The decision by the court to step into the shoes of the FCC and literally re-write a bipartisan federal telecom policy is only likely to hamper recovery in the industry and hurt the cause of job creation at a time when we need it most.