

## Federal C cui o s Carne s,tc n,

## Washington, D.C.

June: I

"Tie Ilonorahle Stan Wise President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Cotnmissioner; rnissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission ashington Street, S.W-;JA 30 334

r President Wise

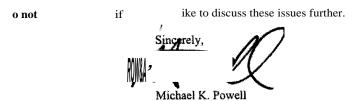
I ant writing you, as the presidenr of the National Association of Reeeulatory Utility Cotnmissioners and representative of NARC('s .+:ember cuitinrissioners, in connection with requests that small local exchange carriers f LEC:sj have to various state ecimrmssians thr waivers of interntodal number porting obligations.

As you know, the FCC concluded in its *lals pi.rener :clamber Fur- Proceeding (CC* Dkt. No. 95-116) that, by November 24, 2003, LECs generally had to port numbers to wireless carriers where the requesting wireless carrier's coverage area overlaps the rate center with which the customer's wireline number is associated—"ireline carriers that operate in areas outside the 100 largest Metropolitan Statistical Area: had to provide such number porting no later that, May 24, 2004. The FCC granted certasn LECs serving fewer than tsso percent of the nation's subscriber lines a limited ssaiser of the November 24, 2003 deadline until May24. 2004.

The Commission has emphasized on many oLc ns the important competitive and consumer benefits of number portability, The Chief of the FCC"s Consumer & #roverrimental Affairs bureau noted the benefits of wireline-to-wireless porting in his May 6, 2004, letter to you. The Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. however, has raised concerns about the possible economic burden that inteirnodal number porting pray place on LECs that are small businesses, particularly those in rural areas. "I hose concerns may warrant flexibility in evaluating pending waiser requests by small LECs Under Section 251(f)(2). Accordingly, and notwithstanding Chief Sn'>wden 's fetter. i urge state commissions to consider the burdens on small businesses in addressing those waivea requests and to grant the requested relief if the state corm issions deem it appropriate. I also request that you share with NARUC's membership this letter vii;>uraging state commissioners to closely considertle concerns iatsed by' tiniali 1,1;Cs pctitsoning for waivers

I further urge state c(unmissions, in the course f it deliberations on the pending waiver requests, to encourage parties to **develop and** submit data relating to the benefits of wireline-to-wireless number portability **and** 1/0 of complying with those

obligations, including upgrades costs to the network **and rowing costs for** calls **forwarded to** carriers. Finally, I **encourage parties** to submit **such information to the** FCC for inclusion in our ongoing proceeding in CC Docket No. 95-116 regarding intermodal **porting intervals.** 



Commissioner Robert Nelson, Chair, NARUC Telecommunications Committee Commissioner Carl Wood, Chair, NARUC Consumer Affairs Committee William Matter, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau John Muleta, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau 10 Dane Snowden, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau