PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554 **DA 98-496**
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REPORT NO. CCB/CPD 98-15 **Released: March 12, 1998**

Alliance for Public Technology Petitions the Commission for issuance of a Notice of Inquiry and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act (RM No. 9244)

Pleading Cycle Established

COMMENTS DUE: April 13, 1998
REPLIES DUE: May 4, 1998

On February 18, 1998, the Alliance for Public Technology ("APT") filed a Petition requesting the issuance of a Notice of Inquiry and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking pursuant to Section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The petition makes specific recommendations for removing barriers to infrastructure investment for advanced telecommunications capabilities including: (1) applying the Section 251(c) regulatory regime only to the existing ILEC network and not to new advanced capabilities like ADSL or HFC, (2) phasing out the UNE/TELRIC scheme over a reasonable period of time, and (3) eliminating certain depreciation regulation. The petition also recommends specific means to encourage investment to build the "last mile" of high capacity capability to the home. These recommendations include adjusting the productivity index to accelerate investment, and attaching appropriate conditions to promote the objectives of Section 706 whenever the Commission approves a merger.

Interested parties may file comments on APT's petition no later than April 13, 1998. Replies must be filed by May 4, 1998. When filing comments and/or replies, please reference the internal file number: CCB/CPD 98-15.

An original and four copies of all comments and replies must be filed in accordance with Section 1.51 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, and one copy with the Chief, Competitive Pricing Division, Room 518, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

For further information, contact Wanda M. Harris, Competitive Pricing Division, Common Carrier Bureau, (202) 418-1530.

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