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OCT 25 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***CS Docket No. 00-30; In the Matter of Applications of America
Online, Inc. and Time Warner, Inc. for Transfers of Control
Notice of Ex Parte Communication***

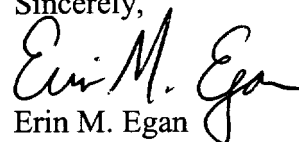
Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter provides notice that David Lawson and Rick Beckner of Sidley & Austin, representing AT&T, and the undersigned, council to Microsoft, today had conversations with Darryl Cooper of the Cable Services Bureau concerning the dynamics of the instant messaging marketplace and the number of IM providers that currently have interoperable IM systems.

It was noted that, over the past year, many IM providers, aside from AOL, have worked on a bilateral basis and through IM Unified to achieve IM interoperability. Those IM providers that have achieved interoperability on a "client-to-client" basis include AT&T WorldNet, iCAST, Tribal Voice, and Microsoft. In addition, Odigo and Yahoo have interoperable systems. It also was noted that IMUnified recently began development of a common protocol that enables functional interoperability across diverse systems. This protocol, which will be published shortly, is expected to be implemented by most, if not all, IMUnified members. The members of IMUnified continue to work with IETF to develop open standards that support fully operational interoperability in either client-to-server or server-to-server systems.

Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Sincerely,


Erin M. Egan

cc: Mr. Darryl Cooper
Ms. Linda Senecal
Mr. Royce Dickens

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