



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senate
125 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

Any such proposed transaction would come before the Commission as an application to exceed 25 percent foreign indirect ownership of a common carrier radio license. In that case, the applicant would have to meet both the statutory and regulatory requirements established by Congress and the Commission.

I wholeheartedly agree that we have made tremendous progress since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in deregulating and prying open our domestic communications market and that we must remain vigilant in ensuring that our market stays open and robust. Moreover, I believe, as you do, that the Commission's approach must promote competition and maintain a secure telecommunications system for our national security. Thus, while it would be inappropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of a hypothetical transaction, I assure you that I would give close scrutiny to any merger involving foreign government-controlled providers to determine whether it would pose a very high risk to competition in the United States, compromise national security, and be consistent with the Communications Act, the FCC's rules and U.S. international obligations.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to work with you to further address any questions or concerns related to our scrutiny of such transactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Kennard".

William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

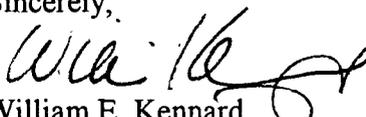
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Sincerely,


William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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Sincerely,


William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 20, 2000

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



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July 20, 2000

The Honorable Richard Bryan
United States Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bryan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



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July 20, 2000

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burns:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senate
444 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dodd:

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

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Chairman



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Paul Wellstone
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wellstone:

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July 20, 2000

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

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Chairman



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
United States Senate
221 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

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July 20, 2000

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
487 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott:

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Any such proposed transaction would come before the Commission as an application to exceed 25 percent foreign indirect ownership of a common carrier radio license. In that case, the applicant would have to meet both the statutory and regulatory requirements established by Congress and the Commission.

I wholeheartedly agree that we have made tremendous progress since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in deregulating and prying open our domestic communications market and that we must remain vigilant in ensuring that our market stays open and robust. Moreover, I believe, as you do, that the Commission's approach must promote competition and maintain a secure telecommunications system for our national security. Thus, while it would be inappropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of a hypothetical transaction, I assure you that I would give close scrutiny to any merger involving foreign government-controlled providers to determine whether it would pose a very high risk to competition in the United States, compromise national security, and be consistent with the Communications Act, the FCC's rules and U.S. international obligations.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to work with you to further address any questions or concerns related to our scrutiny of such transactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Kennard".

William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Mike DeWine
United States Senate
140 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator DeWine:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable John Breaux
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Breaux:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
United States Senate
380 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Campbell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Herbert Kohl
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senate
464 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moynihan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Blanch Lambert Lincoln
United States Senate
708 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lincoln:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Torricelli:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 20, 2000

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2000

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reported plans of foreign government-controlled companies to purchase a majority interest in U.S. telecommunications firms. As you know, there is presently no application of the type you describe before the Federal Communications Commission, and thus I can only address your concerns as a hypothetical matter. Nevertheless, I share your concern that purchase of a U.S. carrier by a foreign government-controlled company does present unique competition issues. Please be assured that I will carefully scrutinize any transaction in which a foreign government-controlled telecommunications carrier seeks to control a U.S. carrier.

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William E. Kennard
Chairman