

Commissioner Anthony
Commissioner Cloud
Commissioner Murphy
Oklahoma Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 52000
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2000

RE: Cause No. RM 201000002

FILED
FEB 19 2010

COURT CLERK'S OFFICE — OKC
CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF OKLAHOMA

Dear Commissioners,

The Mid-American Communications Alliance is a regional coalition advocating on behalf of consumers, including nearly 40,000 Oklahomans, who deserve new choices, better service, and lower costs in their communications service. I'm writing today with concern that the statewide toll-free calling proposal before the Oklahoma Corporation Commission will limit choices and increase costs.

As the old saying goes, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. The adage certainly applies today with regard to statewide toll-free calling. The Commission's proposal calls for a fee assessed on all phone lines – whether landline or wireless. If a person has multiple lines, they'll pay multiple fees.

When something is "free," someone always pays. In fact, more Oklahomans would pay than would benefit under the Commission's plan. It is troubling that the Commission's toll-free calling plan appears to only provide a slight benefit for the rapidly decreasing number of landline users in Oklahoma, while at the same time increasing costs to provide a redundant service for the roughly 90% of Oklahoma consumers who use cell phones. Cell phone users already have calling plans that give them the ability to make calls statewide – even nationwide – without any additional fees.

And as you are surely aware, Oklahoma leads the nation in "cell phone only" households. So for the approximately 26% of households with no landline at all, the Commission's toll-free calling plan would provide absolutely no benefit whatsoever. "Cell phone only" consumers would simply be paying an additional monthly fee to subsidize the rapidly shrinking number of consumers who purchase long distance plans for their landlines.

Additionally, many consumers may not even require long distance service on their landlines. Some consumers have a landline dedicated to connectivity for their home security systems without the need for long distance service. Many other consumers throughout Oklahoma are already being sufficiently served by the toll-free calling areas around Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Enid, and Lawton. For these types of consumers, an

additional fee for statewide toll-free calling would be an unwanted and unnecessary expense.

The communications market is bursting with competition and choices in technology. For consumers who require long distance service on their landlines, there are nearly 30 companies providing that service in Oklahoma today. Getting rid of those choices and raising prices through a statewide calling regime is a step in the wrong direction for Oklahoma. Paying additional monthly fees for services that are at best redundant or at worst unnecessary does not make much sense. On behalf of the nearly 40,000 Oklahomans who depend on MCA to make their voices heard, we urge you to reconsider statewide toll-free calling.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Abrajano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd Abrajano

Executive Director
Mid-American Communications Alliance