

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
)
Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of) CC Docket No. 98-146
Advanced Telecommunications Capability to)
All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely)
Fashion, and Possible Steps To Accelerate)
Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706)
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)

ORDER

Adopted: October 27, 1998

Released: October 27, 1998

By the Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. On August 7, 1998, the Commission released a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to examine the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability. The NOI required parties to file Comments on or before September 8, 1998, and Reply Comments on or before October 8, 1998.¹ On October 20, 1998, Information Renaissance filed a Petition for Electronic Posting of Comments and for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments ("Petition"). Information Renaissance is a non-profit group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which "promotes community networking and the use of the Internet to increase public participation in government."²

2. In its Petition, Information Renaissance states that it has been unable to read all the Reply Comments filed herein because obtaining hard copies of them "will strain the budgets of most public interest groups" and because the vast majority of them have not been posted on the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System ("ECFS").³ Information Renaissance therefore proposes that the deadline for Reply Comments be extended until a period of time after all Reply

1 Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps To Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 98-146, Notice of Inquiry, FCC 98-187, available at 1998 WL 458410 (F.C.C.).

2 Petition at 1.

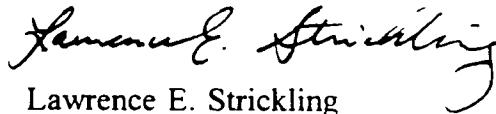
3 *Id.* at 2-3.

Comments have been posted on the ECFS.

3. We deny Information Renaissance's request. We appreciate the difficulties under which Information Renaissance and other public interest groups labor, especially under the relatively compressed pleading schedule in this proceeding. We do not believe, however, that we can extend the filing date for Reply Comments without compromising the Commission's ability to meet the implementation schedule mandated by Congress.⁴ It is on these grounds that we recently denied a request for extension filed by the Personal Communications Industry Association.⁵ We deny Information Renaissance's Petition for the same reasons.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Request for Extension of Time filed by the Information Renaissance is DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Lawrence E. Strickling
Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

⁴ Pub.L. 104-104, Title VII, § 706 (b), Feb. 8, 1996, 110 Stat. 153, reproduced in the notes under 47 U.S.C. § 157, requires that this proceeding be completed "within 180 days after its initiation."

⁵ Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps To Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 98-146, Order DA 98-1966, adopted and released September 28, 1998 (Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau).