



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**STATEMENT BY FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL
ON WORLDCOM BANKRUPTCY FILING**

Today WorldCom filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. While I am deeply concerned by this development, I want to assure the public that we do not believe this bankruptcy filing will lead to an immediate disruption of service to consumers or threaten the operation of WorldCom's Internet backbone facilities. It is my understanding that WorldCom has obtained funding necessary to continue operations during the pendency of its bankruptcy proceeding.

This Commission will act vigilantly, and to the full extent of its statutory authority, to protect the integrity of the telecommunications network and protect consumers against any abrupt termination of service. To that end, I am contacting WorldCom to reiterate that the company's regulatory obligations will continue to apply. We will continue to gather information relevant to WorldCom's operations and advise the company of its regulatory obligations to its customers. This Commission stands ready to intervene in bankruptcy proceedings as necessary to ensure that the bankruptcy court is aware of and considers our public interest concerns.