



# 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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## **COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY APPLAUDS SBC COMMUNICATIONS AND SAGE TELECOM FOR REACHING A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT GOVERNING ACCESS TO UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS**

Washington, DC — Commissioner Abernathy issued the following statement today:

“I am extremely pleased by the announcement that SBC Communications and Sage Telecom, a UNE-P provider, have reached a commercial agreement that will govern Sage’s use of SBC’s network over the next seven years. I applaud the parties for coming to the bargaining table in good faith. Such negotiations require both sides to accept an outcome that does not satisfy all of their objectives, and these companies deserve credit for working hard to find common ground and overcome their differences.

This agreement illustrates that searching for compromise is a worthwhile endeavor. I hope that incumbent LECs and competitors will soon reach additional agreements that narrow the range of disputed issues and eliminate the need for continued litigation. Consumers will be the winners if companies devote their resources to competing in the marketplace, rather than in the courtroom.”

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