

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

*Re: Joint Application by SBC Communications Inc., Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, the Ohio bell Telephone Company, Wisconsin Bell, Inc. and Southwestern Bell Communications Services Inc. for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin*

Today, we grant SBC authority to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. With this achievement, SBC has now received authorization to provide long distance services throughout its entire region. I congratulate SBC for opening its operations to competition and also extend my appreciation to my colleagues at the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Indiana Regulatory Utility Commission, the Ohio Public Utilities Commission and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. I would also like to thank the Wireline Competition Bureau for its hard work and guidance in moving this item to a successful resolution.

The satisfaction of today's achievement comes with a continuing commitment to keep local markets open to competition. Indeed, Congress has made clear through Section 271(d)(6) that the market-opening provisions of Section 271 are an on-going obligation. To that end, I shared concerns raised by commenters during the course of the Michigan Section 271 proceeding about SBC's provision of wholesale billing to its competitive LEC customers and line splitting, a method by which competitive carriers may offer both voice and DSL services over the same local loop. I based my support for the Michigan Section 271 Order in part on the commitment of SBC and my state commission colleagues to continue to develop and enhance the billing and line splitting processes. Thus, I was particularly pleased to see that the Michigan Public Service Commission announced on September 30, 2003 that they will restart their line sharing/line splitting collaborative process. The Order that we adopt today addresses these issues in a similar manner and so I once again encourage my state commission colleagues in the Ameritech region to continue their diligent efforts to ensure that Congress' high standard continues to be met.