FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

COMMITTEES:

VETERANS' AFFAIRS (RANKING)
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0202 (202) 224-6665

August 22, 1994

222 WEST 7TH AVENUE, BOX 1 ANCHORAGE, AK 99513-7570 (907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, BOX 7 FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278 (907) 456-0233

P.O. Box 21647 Juneau, AK 99802-1647 (907) 586-7400

130 TRADING BAY ROAD, SUITE 350 KENAI, AK 99611-7716 (907) 283-5808

> 109 MAIN STREET KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6489 (907) 225-6880

Honorable Reed E. Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing to express our concern that one very real outcome of the recent PCS auctions may be a telecommunications industry not as diverse or inclusive as Congress had intended.

While it is understood that you are working within the framework of legislation passed by Congress, it has become apparent that the rules derived from the legislation are in certain instances, more narrow in scope than Congress intended. Congress mandated that the Commission "ensure that small businesses, rural telephone companies and businesses owned by members of minority groups and women are given the opportunity to participate in the provision of spectrum based services".

With this in mind, it is our belief that small businesses owned by individuals with disabilities should also be included in the spectrum auctions as designated entities. The inclusion of this group would truly allow our burgeoning telecommunications industry to become more diverse. People with disabilities have traditionally been greatly under-represented in most segments of industry and present a compelling case for inclusion in the spectrum auctions.

It is our hope that you will amend the rules to include a preference for the disabled and thereby ensure that we achieve a national information infrastructure that is as inclusive and diverse as is this Nation.

Sincerely,

Senator Frank H. Murkowski

Senator Robert Dole

August 22, 1994
Page 2

Senator Larry Fressler

Senator Russell D. Feingold

August 22, 1994

Senator Donald W. Riegle Jr.

Senator Tom Harkin