

Advocacy Urges FCC to Consider Economic Data in UNE Forbearance Analysis

On November 7, 2007, Advocacy filed an *ex parte* letter with the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) in response to industry concerns over the FCC’s forbearance analysis. Advocacy urged the Commission to consider economic data and to analyze markets where unbundled network element (UNE) forbearance has been granted. A complete copy of Advocacy’s letter may be accessed at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

- Section 10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“The Act”) sets forth the analysis that the FCC must conduct when considering a forbearance petition. Advocacy believes this analysis is similar in form to the analysis the FCC conducts under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), and urges the Commission to weigh the data presented by recent studies on the impact of forbearance and special access pricing flexibility on small providers of telecommunications services and the small entities that they serve.
- Small competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) fear that they will be forced out of business due to market changes, carrier pricing, and the potential UNE forbearance. Because these carriers provide competition, and the Act directs the FCC to promote competition in the telecommunications market, Advocacy urges the Commission to consider how the grant of UNE forbearance will impact these small carriers. Keeping the market for telecommunications services competitive is important to all small businesses, as phone and Internet service are critical expenditures for these entities.

For more information, visit Advocacy’s website at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/> or contact Cheryl Johns at (202) 205-6949.