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 **BELLSOUTH**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 770 391-2450
Suite 397
125 Perimeter Center West
Atlanta, Georgia 30346
October 16, 1997

Thomas L. Hamby
Regulatory Vice President

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
G.P.S.C.

Ms. Terri M. Lyndall
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Re: Designation of BellSouth as a Telecommunications Carrier Eligible to Receive
Universal Service Support

Dear Ms. Lyndall:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., hereby requests that the Georgia Public Service Commission, designate and certify that BellSouth is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier pursuant to Section 214 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"). In order to maintain uninterrupted federal universal service support, BellSouth requests that the requested designation be granted prior to January 1, 1998. In support of this request, BellSouth states the following:

1. 47 USC 214(e)(2) provides that "A State Commission shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph 214(e)(1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State Commission." Pursuant to Section 214(e)(1), a common carrier that has been designated as an eligible telecommunications "shall be eligible to receive universal support in accordance with Section 254."
2. BellSouth meets all requirements of an eligible telecommunications carrier. Specifically, BellSouth meets all federal eligibility criteria set forth in § 214(e)(1) of the 1996 Act.
3. Action by this Commission before the January 1, 1998 commencement date for federal funding is essential for continued universal service in the designated service area. A lapse in federal universal service support would jeopardize continued service in the BellSouth designated service area.

For the above-stated reasons, BellSouth respectfully requests that this Commission designate and certify BellSouth as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in its designated service area in Georgia pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Act. BellSouth further asks that such designation be made prior to January 1, 1998. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call.

Sincerely,


Regulatory Vice President