

7/30/98

Michael Armstrong, C.E.O.  
Chairman's Executive Response Center  
Suite 131  
295 N. Maple Ave.  
Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This letter is in protest to the  
Universal Connectivity Charge.

I do not even own a computer.  
Now I find the F.C.C. has seen fit to  
"set up" a fund to give schools and  
libraries access to advanced services  
like the internet using my money.

Why did A.T.T. go along with  
this "back door" tax?

When was I consulted?

What am I paying school  
taxes for?

It's reprehensible. I do not  
want to participate!

ACK	_____
AFA	_____   _____
APP	_____   _____
CAF	_____   _____
CMU	_____   _____
CTR	_____   _____
EAG	_____   _____
LEG	_____   _____
LIN	_____   _____
OPC	_____   _____
RCH	_____   _____
SEC	_____   _____
WAS	_____   _____
OTH	_____   _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
09015 AUG 21 88  
FEDERAL REPORTING

SNAP · A · GRAM

980000A

FROM:

Doris Dobranski  
7793 Fox Knoll Pl  
Winter Park, FL 32792

DATE:

8/18/98

ATTENTION OF:

SUBJECT:

Public Hearing

TO:

Study on Fair Rates  
Division of Records + Reporting  
7540 Shepard Oak Blvd.  
Gallahue, R.I. 37399-0850

My last phone bill gave this address  
as the place to send comments on "fair +  
reasonable rates" if I could not attend a  
public hearing.

See attached.

Doris Dobranski

SIGNED

DATE

5 ALP  
NC 2873

Snap · A · Gram



WILLIAM T COLE

Account Number: 904 367-8679 748 0562

Bill Period Date: Aug 1, 1998

For AT&T Billing Questions, Call 1 800 222-0300 24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week

### Detailed Statement of Charges

AT&amp;T Invoice Charges For Period Ending JUL 24, 1998

#### AT&T Messages

Your bill has two changes. The FCC has altered the way long distance carriers pay access fees to local phone companies. AT&T is now recovering some of its average per customer access costs in the form of a monthly Carrier Line Charge of \$0.85/account. Also, the FCC extended the Universal Service Fund not only to help provide affordable phone service but also to give schools and libraries access to the Internet. AT&T must contribute to this fund and is assessing a monthly Universal Connectivity Charge of \$0.93/account instead of the previously announced 5%. For info, call 1 800 532-2021.

#### Other Charges and Credits

Amount

1. For an explanation of this charge, please call 1 800 532-2021. Carrier Line Charge .....	.85
2. For an explanation of this charge, please call 1 800 532-2021. Universal Connectivity Charge .....	<u>.93</u>
Total Other Charges and Credits .....	1.78

#### Itemized Calls

Amount

#### Direct Dialed Calls

### Detailed Statement of Charges

#### Monthly Service Charges

Amount

Monthly Service - Aug 1 thru Aug 31

#### Basic Services

Quantity

1. Residential Line	1 ...	10.30
2. Emergency 911 Charge. This charge is billed on behalf of Duval County.	1 ... **	.44
3. FCC Charge for Interstate Toll Access for Additional Line	1 ...	5.00
4. Telecommunications Access System Act Surcharge	1 ... **	<u>.12</u>
Total Basic Services .....		15.86

#### Optional Services

Quantity

5. Inside Wire Maintenance Service Plan	1 ... **	<u>3.95</u>
Total Optional Services .....		3.95
Total Monthly Service Charges .....		19.81

\*\* Unregulated Charge

AV E031417

(continued)▶

J M COLE

Account Number: 904 733-4574 933 0564

Bill Period Date: Aug 1, 1998

**Helpful Numbers (continued)**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BST)

NOTE: Numbers for other companies are listed on their bill pages.

**Billing Questions or to Place an Order 24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week:**

If calling from within the Florida BellSouth service area .....	780-2355
If calling from outside Florida or outside the Florida BellSouth service area .....	1-800-753-2909

**Repair:**

If calling from within the Florida BellSouth service area .....	611
---	-----

**Text Telephone (TTY) Users 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CST) Monday - Friday:**

If calling from within the Florida BellSouth service area .....	780-2274
If calling from outside Florida or outside the Florida BellSouth service area .....	1 800 251-5325

**Detailed Statement of Charges**

<u>Monthly Service Charges</u>		<u>Amount</u>
<i>Monthly Service - Aug 1 thru Aug 31</i>		
<i>Basic Services</i>		
	<i>Quantity</i>	
1. Residential Line	1 ...	10.30
2. Emergency 911 Charge. This charge is billed on behalf of Duval County.	1 ... **	.44
3. FCC Charge for interstate Toll Access	1 ...	3.50
4. Telecommunications Access System Act Surcharge	1 ... **	.12
Total Basic Services .....		14.36
<i>Optional Services</i>		
	<i>Quantity</i>	
5. Inside Wire Maintenance Service Plan	1 ... **	3.95
Total Optional Services .....		3.95
Total Monthly Service Charges .....		18.31

\*\* Unregulated Charge

AV E031796

[continued]▶

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1998

# The Florida Times-Union

© 1998 — 133rd Year — Number 227 — 9 Sections — 86 Pages

JACKSONVILLE, FL

www.jacksonville.com

## INSIDE

News.....	A
Lottery.....	2
Weather.....	A-2
Editorials.....	A-14
Kathleen Parker.....	15
David Broder.....	15
Thomas Sowell.....	15
Metro.....	B
Deaths.....	B-2
InfoTouch.....	B-5
Sports.....	C
Mike Bianchi.....	1
Golf.....	3
Auto racing.....	5
Legal notices.....	C-10
Business.....	C-11
Digs.....	D
Television.....	5
Comics.....	D-6, 7
Horoscope.....	7
Crossword.....	D-7
Crossword extra.....	E-3
Classified.....	E
Wheels.....	E-9

## Critics attack \$3 AT&T fee

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In what is emerging as a trend among phone companies, AT&T Corp. will start charging some long-distance customers a minimum of \$3 a month because it's losing money on people who don't make a lot of calls.

The plan drew immediate fire from consumer groups who say it squeezes customers who can least afford it.

The minimum bill takes effect today for new AT&T customers who sign up for discount calling plans, and a week later for all new customers. Starting Jan. 1, all current

See AT&T, Page A-6

A-6 ★★ The Times-Union, Jacksonville, Saturday, August 15, 1998

## AT&T defends minimum fee proposal as necessary

From Page A-1

AT&T customers who switch to a discount plan also pay the minimum.

Other customers are exempt, even if they move. Discount subscribers who make \$2.50 worth of long distance calls in a month would pay an extra 50 cents, for a total bill of \$3. Discount customers who make no calls would also pay \$3.

AT&T says it needs the money to cover the costs of serving infrequent callers.

Up to now, long-distance companies limited their minimum charges; AT&T, MCI and Sprint now charge some consumers minimum fees for plans that give discounts for calls during off-peak hours.

"The new ethos is, If you're not making a lot of calls, go away," said Gene Kimmelman, co-director of Consumers Union, a Washington, D.C.-based consumer group.

AT&T, the nation's largest phone company, contended the charge was needed to cover the \$300 million a year it loses on customers who spend less than \$3 a month. That applies to 15 to 20 percent of AT&T's 70 million customers.

AT&T took pains to avoid de-

scribing the plan as an attempt to push away unprofitable customers. It said it would exempt people from the minimum fee who show they are low-income consumers; to qualify, customers must be enrolled in a state telephone assistance program, call a toll-free AT&T number and provide proof of eligibility.

"Being fair to all customers is important to us," said George Burnett, vice president in AT&T's consumer markets division.

But some said the various steps could prove difficult for some low-income people to figure out. "This is part of an ongoing trend of loading costs on low-volume consumers," Kimmelman said.

Moreover, AT&T's announcement yesterday seemed to strike a raw nerve. Phone service, like gas and electric utilities, has been accepted as a way of life open to all people, no matter how many calls they make.

The AT&T charge is "an unconscionable abandonment of residential telephone customers," said Samuel Simon, chairman of the Telecommunications Research and Action Center, a Washington, D.C.-based consumer group.