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December 11, 2001

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA), the newly formed industry council for FCC certification, respectfully requests your participation in an educational seminar on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC), and the telecommunications industry's obligations and functions under the FCC's Order<sup>1</sup> to privatize its rules and regulations 47 C.F.R. Part 68. The seminar is scheduled for May 1-3, 2002 in Arlington, Virginia.

With the privatization of the FCC Part 68 rules, we believe there is a need to clearly communicate to the industry at large the requirements for approving terminal equipment connected to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) under ACTA via an education program or public forum. We also believe your presence at such an event would clarify the FCC's commitment to streamlining terminal equipment approval processes, while enforcing relevant FCC rulings surrounding certification requirements and industry obligations.

Since transitioning the responsibility to ACTA in July 2001 to maintain a database of approved equipment, representatives serving on the council have taken note of the total number of filings submitted, and have compared this number of "pre-privatization" filings submitted to the FCC prior to ACTA. The council notes that there exists a sixty percent reduction in the number of filings submitted to ACTA compared to the number of pre-privatization filings submitted to the FCC. While economic downturn within the industry and other events may be impacting the number of filings, ACTA representatives want to take appropriate measures to ensure full industry awareness of terminal equipment certification procedures, as well as procedures for submitting technical criteria supporting the attachment of terminal equipment to the public network.

Topics of discussion include the rewrite of FCC Part 68, the creation of ACTA and its role in the industry, the FCC's retention of certain consumer-specific requirements and its "enforcement-power" to ensure the approval and listing of terminal equipment prior to connection to the PSTN. The seminar will assist manufacturers, telecommunication service providers, testing laboratories, and industry managers in understanding their responsibilities under this new FCC system for product certification. The seminar would begin at 9:00 A.M on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> with your

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<sup>1</sup> FCC Report and Order, CC Docket No. 99-216

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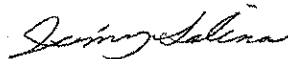
opening remarks. If this time does not work within your schedule, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff for an appropriate time between May 1 and 3.

Based on over 30 years of experience in the telecom industry, given the rapid changes in the industry together with the new technologies on the horizon, protecting the public telephone network is more important now than ever. As Chairman of the ACTA, a collaborative effort to move the industry forward as efficiently as possible is vital. The outcome being greater access to innovated technology, lower cost, and enhanced network reliability to as many people as possible.

Opening remarks from yourself, and direct participation from appropriate FCC staff members to help facilitate discussions, will demonstrate the FCC's support of the ACTA and set the tone for the seminar. Chairman Powell, we look forward to your reply and working with you to present this event.

Should your office have questions or seek additional information, I am available by phone at 713-567-8095, pager at 1-888-587-5495, or by e-mail at [js5906@txmail.sbc.com](mailto:js5906@txmail.sbc.com).

Thank You In Advance,



Jimmy Salinas  
ACTA Chairman

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