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It's a Call Worth Making, a Letter Worth Writing

There are times when speaking up and making an opinion known is crucial to what will happen next.

As you already know, communications continues to utilize the Internet. With the growing success of cable operators and Internet telephony providers such as Vonage and Skype, the once Baby Bells are not so little any more. What everyone is fighting for today is control over broadband. That's because it is the choice of medium for carrying voice, video and text.

Over the past 20 years, the Bell companies began to merge and acquire other companies to the point where they have once again created a monopoly in the marketplace. But here's the difference: what led to the breakup 20 years ago no longer applies.

It is imperative that we encourage Congress to pass the Net Neutrality Law.

Here's why. If the Net Neutrality Law is passed then network operators CANNOT be allowed to charge Internet companies for delivering their services at faster speeds than other businesses.

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Acronym Corner

SSL

Secure Sockets Layer or SSL is a protocol developed by Netscape for transmitting private documents via the Internet.

Both Netscape and Internet Explorer support SSL, and many Web sites use the protocol to obtain confidential information such as credit card numbers. URLs that require an SSL connection start with https: instead of http.

Proxy Server

Proxy server has two main purposes: Improve performance and filter requests.

It can dramatically improve performance for groups of users. This is because it saves the results of all requests for a certain amount of time. Proxy servers support hundred or thousands of users. AOL, MSN and Yahoo use proxy servers.

Filter requests are mainly used to prevent employees/people from accessing a specific set of Web sites.

The 815 Area Code Just Found a New Friend: 779

Yes it's true. Area code 815 will share its space with new area code 779 which started in August 2006. Areas that utilize the 815 area code are cities and towns such as Belvidere, Crystal Lake, DeKalb, Dixon, Freeport, Hanover, Joliet, Kankakee, Ottawa, Pontiac, Princeton, Rockford, Sterling and Watseka and many more communities in northern Illinois.

But remember, beginning on February 17, 2007, you must use the new dialing procedure whenever you place a call from the 815 area code. If you don't, your call will not be completed. So on March 17, 2007 new telephone lines or services may be given the 779 area code.



Remember to change all equipment that are currently programmed to dial a 7-digit number will need to be reprogrammed for all 10 digits. Items such as life safety systems, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services etc.

Take Note: Your current area code and number will remain the same along with the price of a call even if you are making a local call. And most importantly, the three digits 911, as well as 211,311,411,511,611 and 711 will remain the same.

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You as a consumer will eventually pay twice for the Internet. You will pay for the connection and then pay for the access. The connection is expected to remain relatively inexpensive, however access is a different story. If there is healthy competition amongst the big and small Internet companies, prices will remain competitive. But if not...

That is why Congress must pass the Net Neutrality Law.

Saying nothing tells Congress that we as the general public will accept the lack of competition and the increase of prices. Saying something shows that we are watching and listening. Our opinion counts. Remember, what they do is a reflection of all of us.

AT & T-Bell South Deal Dial Back Ma Bell, 10,000 Layoffs Possible

News from March 2006—Nine months after analysts wondered if the AT & T logo would go away, the revamped SBC Communications/AT & T made a \$67 billion stock offer for BellSouth Corp.

- InternetWeek Newsletter, Tuesday, March 7, 2006

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- I want to know how my company can utilize the RAM Wireless Solution.
- Call me regarding RAM's Business Cell Phone Plan with Sprint.
- I'm interested in RAM quoting my company a price for telephone service.
- I'm interested in RAM's Professional Services.
- I'm in the 815 area code and will need to add lines. How will this affect me?
- How can I speak my voice regarding Net Neutrality.

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