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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL UNION No. 396

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Comments: Senate Bill 400
Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee

My name is Jim Anzinger, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union #396, representing 1300 union employees employed by Sprint Southern Nevada. On behalf of our membership we fully support Senate Bill 400.

Choice in telecommunication has meant a lot of things to a lot of people. Let me tell you what it means to those who are represented by IBEW 396. It's a choice between a good paying union job and one with less pay and inferior benefits. When union jobs are lost, the employees choice is to seek employment with another telecommunication company. But all of those companies, many of them opponents of Senate Bill 400 do not employ one single union represented worker in Nevada. And when union jobs are lost, it has a direct economic impact on the local economy. We watch as these competitors, who are allowed to play out of a different rule book, have taken a significant market share from Sprint at the expense of the working men and women employed by Sprint. A lot is required of our dedicated work force, but no matter how hard they work or how well trained, nothing can compensate them for the loss of jobs because of antiquated regulations.

We applaud Sprint and SBC for their leadership on this issue. We believe this is a simple choice.

Senate Bill 400 would level the playing field, while preserving the current regulation of basic residential and business rates. The customers we serve day in and day out want choices that are both economical and timely. Simply put, Senate Bill 400 will allow our employees to give the customer what he or she wants.

On behalf of our nearly 1300 represented employees, thank you for taking the time to let me be heard.

Sincerely,

Jim C. Anzinger
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local Union No. 396

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ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR

DATE: 5/7/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT F

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Anzinger