



The VON Coalition

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VoIP Leaders Look Forward To Working With New FCC Chairman ...

To Resolve Most Important of all VoIP Issues – Reaffirming 20 Year Old Internet Compensation Policy

Background: Today Level 3 Communications decided to withdraw its forbearance petition which asked the FCC to affirm the existing rules for who pays whom and how much for exchange of traffic between VoIP networks and phone networks. In withdrawing the petition, which had to be decided by tomorrow March 22nd, Level 3 noted that Friday's change in FCC leadership placed the Commission in the difficult position of confronting a statutory deadline while managing a leadership transition.

The following statement can be attributed to Staci Pies, President of the VON Coalition:

“As the new FCC Chairman begins his term, we look forward to working with him to help unleash the full promise and potential of VoIP. As an immediate step, the Commission must reaffirm that VoIP providers should pay cost-based rates when accessing the public network. The Commission must also replace the broken access charge regime as quickly as possible.”

About the VON Coalition:

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes Acceris, AT&T, BMX, BT Americas, CallSmart, Convedia, Covad, Earthlink, IceNet, iBasis, Intel, Intrado, Level 3, MCI, Microsoft, MobilePro, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, Teleglobe, Texas Instruments, USA Datanet, VocalData, and Voiceglo, believes that Americans are fundamentally better off with a generally hands off regulatory approach to Internet and Internet based services like VoIP. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has consistently advocated that federal and state regulators maintain current policies of refraining from extending legacy regulations to Internet services, including VoIP. More information about the VON Coalition can be obtained at the following website:

<http://www.von.org>