

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Petition of CRC Communications of Maine, Inc.	)	WC Docket No. 10-143
And Time Warner Cable, Inc.	)	
For Preemption Pursuant to Section 253	)	
Of the Communications Act, as Amended	)	

**COMMENTS OF THE VOICE ON THE NET COALITION**

The Voice on the Net Coalition (VON Coalition)<sup>1</sup> hereby submits these brief comments in support of the petition filed July 15, 2010 by CRC Communications of Maine, Inc. (CRC) and Time Warner Cable, Inc. (TWC) asking the Commission to issue an order under Section 253 of the Communications Act preempting the Maine Public Utilities Commission’s erroneous interpretation of Section 251 of the Act that is effectively prohibiting a VoIP provider from competing with five rural, incumbent local exchange carriers (“RLECs”) in Maine (the “Petition”).<sup>2</sup>

In 2007, CRC requested interconnection with 21 RLECs in Maine under Section 251(a) and (b) so that CRC could provide wholesale telecommunications services to TWC. Interconnection is required so that TWC’s VoIP customers can receive calls from and make calls to the public switched telephone network. With VoIP, consumers and business in rural areas of Maine can receive the numerous advantages of VoIP, including advanced features and lower communications costs. Petition at 2-3. According to the Petition, 16 of the 21 voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreements with CRC. Petition at 5.

However, five RLECs refused to interconnect, and CRC asked the Maine PUC to arbitrate the dispute, pursuant to Section 252 of the Act. Id. Following years of proceedings, the Maine PUC incorrectly interpreted Section 251 of the Act when it found that Section 251(f) insulates these five RLECs from the interconnection requirements of Sections 251(a) and (b). Petition at 6-7. The plain words of the

---

<sup>1</sup>The VON Coalition works to advance regulatory policies that enable Americans to take advantage of the promise and potential of IP enabled communications. VON Coalition members are developing and delivering voice and other communications applications that may be used over the Internet. VON Coalition members include AT&T, Broadvox, Cisco, Google, iBasis, Microsoft, Skype, T-Mobile, Vonage and Yahoo.

<sup>2</sup>Public Notice, DA 10-1423 (rel. July 29, 2010).

