

# Early if possible - he has to leave

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 12/5/00

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT PSC 179

Jim Leonhart  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or Route Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and Zip Code)

AT-T  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

**Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**AT&T TESTIMONY  
ON CHAPTER PSC 179**

Wisconsin Act 496 was passed into law in 1996. An emphasis of the bill was to create competition in the local service market. Today, nearly five years after the bill was passed, there is very little competition in the local market even in urban areas.

To provide for a transition to a competitive market, the standards and guidelines established by the Act must be enforced.

Interconnection to an established local service provider is one method by which a new entrant can offer services.

Competition can be thwarted when there are protracted proceedings if a party, especially a new entrant, brings issues alleging a failure to comply with an interconnection agreement.

It is imperative for the Public Service Commission to act in an expedient manner when dealing with such disputes. The current provisions of this chapter allow for a 120-day period for a decision to be rendered. In a competitive environment, this is an eternity.

Our recommendation is to reduce the decision-making window to 60 days.

The recent quality of service settlement with Ameritech demonstrates that the PSC has the capability of handling even complex issues in a relatively short period of time.

If competition remains a goal in this state, decision-making must be done in a manner that permits a new entrant to respond to a market opportunity.