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From: Commissioner Bill Munde,

To: Arizona Media

Date: October 16, 2000

Subject: Media Alert: Qwest Rate Case Docket: T-01051B-99-0105

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I am aware that settlement discussions between commission staff and Qwest have been ongoing. Because of legal restrictions on any Commissioner's involvement in a pending matter, I am not aware of any specifics about those discussions regarding the Qwest rate case or any "settlement" of it.

In general, however, I strongly support the concept that all parties to a Commission matter take due time and care to address all the associated critical issues. There is no need for any party to believe that an accelerated timeline is necessary or warranted.

All parties of record and the public must be afforded sufficient time to complete their own review of the rate case including any proposed settlement. When considering other Commission matters, I have consistently sought additional review time for any party that expressed an adequate basis for it.

As a Commissioner, I want to be certain that prior to considering any matter, a sound and complete record is developed and available to use in preparing to deliberate and vote.

Fairness to Arizona consumers dictates that we proceed only at pace that enables us to thoroughly consider all of the testimony and other evidence that will be a part of this important matter.