

Additional Statement of Commissioner Thomas B. Leary

Before the
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I would like to discuss our unanimous recommendation that the Federal Trade Commission Act be amended to eliminate the special exemption for telecommunications common carriers.

When the common carrier exemption was included in the FTC Act almost 90 years ago, the exemption made sense. The Commission was given the authority to attack "unfair methods of competition." It was logical to exempt the

In conclusion, let me assure you that we do not want to intrude into other agencies' business and we do not seek to impose remedial relief absent a need for it. But, you decided long ago that the issues we are talking about here are our business, and we cannot do the best possible job for consumers, whom we both seek to serve, while we are constrained by a barrier that has long outlived its usefulness.