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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

THOMAS E. MEDLIN, JR

March 12, 2001

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Geneva S. Thigpen
Chief Clerk, NC Utilities Commission
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P-100 Sub 137 C

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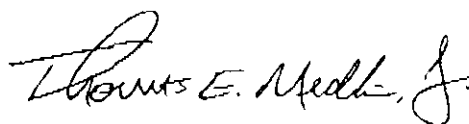
RE: Area Code Relief for 336 Area Code

Dear Chief Clerk:

I am against the proposed "distributed overlay" as the relief plan for the 336 area code. I believe it will be more confusing for persons and businesses outside the area when dialing and finding phone numbers. It is much easier to keep track of numbers when they are all within the same area code. It is possible that one business or one family could have several phone numbers with different area codes if the services were created at different times. I understand there will be an expense involved for businesses with changing the area code on stationary, computers, address data bases, etc. However, the one-time expense will be less over the long run than the expense and confusion which will be caused by an overlay system. This appears to be a solution based upon short term costs rather than long term simplicity of use. I prefer the "geographic split" and believe it will not cause any additional confusion than when we changed from 910 to 336.

Clerk
1 Stahl
7 Comm.
Wigfall
1 Comm.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Medlin, Jr.

cc: Robert P. Gruber, Executive Director
Public Staff of the Utilities Commission

Honorable Roy A. Cooper, III
NC Attorney General