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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

From: "Perry Woods" <pw3@pipeline.com>
To: <thigpen@ncucmail.commerce.state.nc.us>
Subject: HI
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P-100, Sub-137C

I'm writing you because you were the only email address I could find on your web site. I'm writing because you folks are involved along with the phone companies in the selection of area codes in North Carolina. I am in hopes you can pass this note along to the proper person.

As you are presently in discussion as to whether the Triad area will get a second area code, I had a thought that I wanted to share with someone. As I understand it, most businesses are opposed to another change in area code, mainly because of the expense involved in changing stationary, business cards, etc. I further understand the public's reluctance because it will mean dialing 10 digits as opposed to 7. I further understand that all this is made necessary because of the rapid expansion of cell phones and pagers.

*Clerk
Stahl
? Comm.
Wigfall
1 Comm.*

I have an idea that may make it easier of the consumer and business man alike. Why don't you move all cell phones and pagers to the new area code and keep all land lines at the present area code. The advantages are obvious. the phone company gets all the new exchanges they need, as do the cell phone and pager companies. Consumers could easily remember a change like that. If it is a pager or a cell phone, they need to call it is in the new area code, while if it's a land line, nothing changes, hence, no expense to businesses (a major obstacle is overcome). Because most people don't publish their cell phone numbers anyway as that service isn't available as far as I know from your local phone company.

Speaking of publishing, this plan offers an extra benefit to the consumer as well as to the telephone company. The consumer could apply for the same number for his cell phone that he has at home making it easier to remember. The phone company could offer a service that would include adding a symbol to the customer's listing in the phone book (for example <*>) that would indicate that person has a cell phone available at the same number (but different area code) thus allowing cell phone numbers to be listed in the phone book should the customer wish it.

I'm sure there are reasons why this won't work but to a simple consumer like myself, this idea makes all kinds of sense. It would seem to minimize the objections I hear in the media and it might make it easier for you and the phone companies to do your respective jobs.