

NEWS RELEASE

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**Statement of IBEW President Edwin D. Hill
On Bush Administration's Decision Not to Appeal
Telecom Case to Supreme Court**

The Bush Administration's reversal of its previous legal defense of the Federal Communications Commission's rules governing competition for local telephone service is a blow to workers and consumers who have seen these policies promote job increases, infrastructure investment and competitive pricing in an industry vital to America's economic growth. We are disappointed but not surprised that the administration would fail to support one of its own agencies by refusing carrying the fight to uphold these rules to the highest court in the land. While the administration's failure to take a principled stand may benefit some of its corporate backers, it is a bitter defeat for the public interest.