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From the Office of Commissioner Stan Wise
News Release

Commissioner Stan Wise Says FCC Decision on VoIP Leaves Unanswered Questions

Atlanta, November 10, 2004 – Commissioner Stan Wise says Tuesday’s decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on state regulation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) leaves a number of urgent questions unanswered. The FCC ruled that state commissions have limited jurisdiction over the fast growing internet-based telephone service. Wise is concerned that the FCC failed to address whether VoIP providers must pay fees into the Universal Service Fund for bringing telephone service to rural areas and emergency 911 services. Wise said phone customers in rural and poor areas would be especially hurt if VoIP providers aren’t forced to pay into the funds that support these services. Wise said, “I urge the FCC to expeditiously work out the large implications of this decision with respect to universal service, intercarrier compensation, public safety and consumer protection.”

Commissioner Wise is currently president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC), whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC’s member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities.

Commissioner Wise is serving in his second six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission having been re-elected in November 2000.

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