



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

**GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

715 Alta Vista, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0110  
Mailing Address: P.O. Drawer 26110•Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0110  
Phone: (505) 827-2000•Fax: (505) 827-2041

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
DIVISION  
(505) 827-0620  
BUILDING SERVICES DIVISION  
(505) 827-2349  
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION  
(505) 827-0680  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
DIVISION  
(505) 827-2001  
PROPERTY CONTROL DIVISION  
(505) 827-2141  
PURCHASING DIVISION  
(505) 827-0472  
RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
(505) 827-0442  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
DIVISION  
(505) 476-1902

**Bill Richardson**  
GOVERNOR

**Edward J. Lopez, Jr.**  
SECRETARY

October 30, 2004

I've known Loretta Armenta for years. She is a good friend, a tireless advocate and a highly respected force at the Legislature. I hope that her first accomplishment is to convince Qwest's Denver decision makers to invest every single penny of the \$788 million it promised in 2001. Qwest immediately must drop its senseless request to stop investing in New Mexico.

Make no mistake; Loretta's appointment clearly signals Qwest's intention to unleash a full court press at the Legislature to completely deregulate all its rates, product introductions and almost every other element of its business. Qwest has presented its proposed legislation to an interim Legislative committee. When I was assigned to lead a similar deregulation effort in 1999, I learned the hard way that Denver-alone calls the shots and that New Mexico's needs are not a consideration. They fooled me once...I'll not be fooled again.

Today, as its largest business customer, I have witnessed Qwest further tighten its stranglehold on the wireline market by effectively driving AT&T, MCI and many other wireline CLEC competitors out of the local wireline business or out of business entirely. Few wireline providers have survived to offer landline customers a meaningful alternative to Qwest. Recent federal court decisions on line sharing and interconnection delivered what could be the final blow to wireline competition.

If complete wireline telecom deregulation was ill-advised in 1999, it will be disastrous in 2005. Contrary to Qwest's main argument for complete deregulation, mobile telephones are not substitutes for Qwest's monopoly services. Everyone receiving this note knows this is a ludicrous assertion, but Qwest has convinced most of our legislators otherwise.

Qwest's bill is VERY LIKELY to pass unless we all begin to fight it now. Your intense grassroots lobbying efforts to kill U S WEST's deregulation legislation succeeded in 1999. We cannot wait until January to engage. As a fellow Qwest customer and as state government's senior telecommunications policy and operations officer, I strongly urge you contact as many legislators as possible. Let them know that competition is in trouble and that Qwest's bill is a blueprint for another unregulated monopoly.

Ed Lopez  
Cabinet Secretary