

From: American Patriot
To: <mlivingston@utah.gov>
Date: 6/3/2008 11:58 AM
Subject: 10-digit dialing

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the 10-digit dialing you are proposing. To me, this is an outrage. It seems insensitive, thoughtless, even stupid.

Why in the world do you not just split the area covered by the 801 area code, leave part of it with the 801 code, and give the new 385 code to the other part? It's really very simple. I would have no problem with changing to a new area code. It's no problem at all. It's far better than having to endure the undue hardship of having to dial 10 digits just to make a local call. Even though they don't realize it now, people will get sick and tired very quickly of having to dial 10 digits.

I understand some businesses complained that if they were given a new area code, they would have to print new stationery and new business cards. Big deal! So what? Who cares? I don't care about that one bit. Just think of how many business had to do that when you imposed the 435 area code. That, apparently, was not considered a major problem then. The more important matter is the thousands of ordinary people who will be burdened with having to dial 10 digits just to make a local call. That is absolutely absurd. How very inconvenient this would be. It sounds like a decision made by a bunch of ignorant people who gave the matter very little, if any, thought. It seems that they just caved in to pressure from a few special interest groups and to hell with everybody else. The decision seems completely insane.

Were there any public hearings at which the general public could voice their objections? I never heard of any in my area. Apparently there was a period during which people could make comments by email only but I was never aware of this. From looking at your web site, it is clear that the vast majority of comments made were strongly in favor of a split rather than an overlay which would have preserved the 7-digit dialing. So the decision to use the overlay approach is doubly puzzling. It makes it all the more clear that the commission just caved in to special interests rather than considering the preferences of the general public. As one person pointed out, if one should add a new line to his residence, he may end up with two different area codes IN THE SAME HOUSE. How ridiculous is that?

I must agree with one of the comments that said this is a "short-sighted, bone-headed solution."

I urge you to reconsider this decision. I urge you to change the decision and to use the split method, which will retain the 7-digit dialing, rather than the foolish overlay method. As you know from the comments you have received, the vast majority of the public strongly prefer the split method.

K. Smith
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