



Executive Director's Office
D. Rico Munn
Executive Director

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2009

Contact:

Jim Greenwood, Director
303-894-2121

DORA'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL RELEASES LONG-DISTANCE RATE COMPARISON

DORA's Office of Consumer Counsel has released a chart comparing state-to-state and in-state long-distance rates for residential consumers in Colorado. The rate chart includes calling card rates and various additional fees charged by some companies. Rates were compared among 12 long-distance carriers including major companies like AT&T, Qwest and Sprint, as well as a number of smaller companies. The office publishes the rate comparison as part of its *OCC Consumer News*. Through analytical formulas applied to the rate comparison chart, the OCC came up with recommendations based on where calls are made and low, average and high call volumes.

Low Usage (30 minutes/month):	Total Call, Pioneer Telephone, 3U Telecom
Average Usage (120 minutes/month):	Pioneer Telephone, Total Call, TouchTone
High Usage (300 minutes/month):	Pioneer Telephone, TouchTone, Total Call
State-to-State Calls Only:	Pioneer Telephone and Total Call
In-State Calls Only:	Pioneer Telephone and Total Call

The OCC cautions that these rates are subject to change and consumers should call to confirm the rates offered before signing up with a particular company and plan. The rate comparison does not include all companies or all available calling plans of the companies included in the chart. There are dozens of long-distance resellers and many of them offer multiple calling plans. In addition, the OCC notes that some companies charge additional fees and surcharges such as a Bill Statement Fee, Gross Receipts Tax, Property Tax Surcharge, In-State Connection Fee, Carrier Cost Recovery Charge or a monthly plan fee. All of these translate to higher long-distance rates. Furthermore, consumers should avoid the major companies' "basic rates."

To obtain a copy of the OCC's long-distance rate comparison chart and additional consumer information in the *OCC Consumer News*, call, write or email the office at: Office of Consumer Counsel, 1560 Broadway, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 894-2121, occ@dora.state.co.us or visit the OCC's website at: www.dora.state.co.us/OCC/OCCNewsDecember2008.pdf.

The Office of Consumer Counsel represents residential, small business and agricultural consumers in electric, gas and telecommunication rate and rulemaking cases before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and federal agencies. The Office of Consumer Counsel is one of nine divisions within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), which offers many additional consumer protection resources. To learn more about the consumer protection resources of DORA, go to <http://www.dora.state.co.us/>.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

