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3 November 2000

Dr Hon Tang Siu-ting JP
Chairman
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council,
c/o 2A, Overseas Trust Bank Building,
95-97 Yuen Long Main Road,
Yuen Long,
N.T.

Dear Sir,

Proposed Charging and Penalty System for Road Opening Works

We understand that Panel on Planning, Lands and Works will discuss the captioned matter in Legislative Council on 6 November 2000. We would like to express our views for your kind attention.

1. The introduction of Charging and Penalty System will not result in reduction of road opening work because the necessity of road opening work is driven by business needs.
2. The proposed charging system will only increase administrative cost and eventually the financial burden will transfer to consumers
3. Co-ordination mechanism already existed amongst the Telecommunication Operators under Office of the Telecommunications Authority monitoring
4. Most of the inconvenience is caused by trenching works in carriageway. From statistics on number of excavations in carriageways prepared by Highways Department, we find that over 2/3 is done by government department.

In August 2000, all utilities and contractors from relevant field are invited to the first workshop organized by Commerce and Industry Bureau to exchange views on the proposed charging system. The consultant has summarized some constructive options (e.g. One-stop-shop among government departments, common duct and utilities trough) in the working note for further more detailed regulatory impact and cost-benefit analysis.

In order to avoid unnecessary social impact caused, we should wait for outcome from the second workshop before proceed further.

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新世界集團成員
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Yours sincerely,

C L Wong
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c.c. **Mr. S W Tang**
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Mr. K W Li
Mr. T F Chow
Mr. Simon Ngo
Mr. Allen Law
Mr. Patrick So

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