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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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June 1, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service;**
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing on behalf of Western Wireless Corporation ("Western Wireless") to inform you that the attached press release was circulated by counsel for Western Wireless today to: (1) Dorothy Atwood and Kathryn Brown of Chairman Kennard's office; (2) Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ness; (3) Sarah Whitesell, legal advisor to Commissioner Tristani; (4) Kyle Dixon, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Powell; (5) Rebecca Beynon, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Furchgott-Roth; (6) Katherine Schroder, Jack Zinman, and Richard Smith of the Common Carrier Bureau; and (7) David Furth of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele C. Farquhar
Counsel for Western Wireless

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Press Release

Cellular One Logo Here

Western Wireless Logo Here

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 22, 2000

Investor Relations Contact: Gina Haggerty
Western Wireless Corporation
Phone: 425-586-8671

Media Contact: John Snyder
Snyder Buscher
Phone: 206-652-9710

COMPETITION COMES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN KANSAS AND MINNESOTA

Western Wireless Launches A Competitive Local Telephone Service

[Bellevue, WA] Today, Western Wireless Corporation announced the introduction of a competitive local telephone service in several rural communities in Kansas and Minnesota. The introduction of this competitive local telephone service is the result of landmark decisions by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on April 21, 2000 and by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) on February 29, 2000. The Minnesota PUC approved Western Wireless' universal service offering and the KCC granted Western Wireless' request for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status for purposes of federal and state universal service support. Now, for the first time in rural America, rural consumers in Kansas and Minnesota have a choice for their telephone needs. In the short time since obtaining state commission approval for its competitive telephone service in Kansas and Minnesota, Western Wireless has introduced competitive telephone service in more than 20 rural communities in Minnesota and Kansas and plans to expand its service offering to more than 100 rural communities by the end of the year.

"These unprecedented decisions by the state commissions in Minnesota and Kansas, together with our launch of competitive telephone service in rural communities in these states, mark the beginning of a new era that will transform the way customers choose and receive telecommunications services," said Mikal Thomsen, President and Chief Operating Officer of Western Wireless Corporation. "Instead of being forced to sign up for phone service

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with the only player in town, consumers now have the choice of obtaining prompt, reliable, high-quality, affordable phone service from Western Wireless. Consumers have always benefited from competition—choice of carriers, choice among technologies, choice of rates and choice among services.”

Customers who request local telephone service from Western Wireless receive a wireless access unit that can be used in the home or outside of the home. With the wireless access unit, customers enjoy dial tone service and clear, reliable telephone service at a low monthly rate of only \$14.99, which also includes unlimited local calling and a greatly expanded local calling area from that offered by incumbent local telephone companies. “The decisions by the state commissions in Minnesota and Kansas are truly historic in that rural consumers in these states now have access, for the first time, to the competitive telecommunications services promised by the Telecommunications Act of 1996,” said Gene DeJordy, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Western Wireless Corporation.

Based in Bellevue, Washington, Western Wireless Corporation (NASDAQ: WWCA) is a leading provider of rural communications in the Western United States, as well as internationally. The Company owns and operates wireless cellular phone systems marketed under the Cellular One national brand name in 19 western states. Through the first quarter of 2000, Western Wireless was providing service to 874,000 customers. Western Wireless International holds license to offer wireless service in nine countries. You can learn more about Western Wireless at www.wireless.com.

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