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LEGAL AFFAIRS &
REGULATORY GROUP
CHARLES W. BLACKWELL, J.D.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 1, 2000

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

**Re: *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service: Promoting
Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved
Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Lands***
CC Docket No. 96-45/FCC 99-245

***Western Wireless Petition for Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide
Universal Service to the Crow Reservation, Montana; CC Docket
No. 96-45, DA 99-1847***

Dear Ms. Salas:

This is to inform you that the attached letter(s) were submitted to each of the five Commissioners as *ex parte* presentations in the proceedings referred to above on even date herewith.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

1. ***Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska***
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, Nebraska 68071
2. ***Lovelock Paiute Tribe***
P.O. Box 878
Lovelock, Nevada 89419
3. ***Santee Sioux Tribe***
52948 Hwy 12
Niobrara, Nebraska 68760
4. ***Rosebud Sioux Tribe***
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570
5. ***Oglala Sioux Tribe***
Box 4A-2
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770
6. ***Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation***
Fort Berthold Indian Reservation
HC# Box 2
New Town, North Dakota 58763-9402
7. ***The Chickasaw Nation***
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74821
8. ***Muscogee Creek Nation***
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
9. ***Northern Cheyenne Tribe***
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, Montana 59043
10. ***All Indian Pueblo Council (19)***
3939 San Pedro, NE
Suite E
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

11. ***Yankton Sioux Tribe***
Box 248
Marty, South Dakota 57361
12. ***The Choctaw Nation*** (Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma)
Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702
13. ***Trenton Indian Service Area***
P.O. Box 210
Trenton, North Dakota 58853
14. ***United South and Eastern Tribes***
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Suite 100
Nashville, Tennessee 37214
15. ***Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Nation***
P.O. Box 6104
Ibapah, Utah 84034
16. ***Omaha Tribe***
P.O. Box
Macy, Nebraska 68039
17. ***Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians***
P.O. Box 900
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316
18. ***Ponca Tribe***
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, Nebraska 68760
19. ***Blackfeet Nation***
P.O. Box 850
Browning, Montana 59417
20. ***Picuris Pueblo***
P.O. Box 127
Pensco, New Mexico 87553

Lovelock Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 878
Lovelock, NV 89419
Telephone (775) 273.7861 Fax (775) 273.1144

May 30, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation, Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-1847.

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Lovelock Paiute Tribe supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless Corporation for the Crow reservations. Our tribal government, like the Crow Tribe, is a domestic sovereign nation and we expect the FCC to affirm our mutual tribal sovereignty in all of its actions beginning with this one.

For over two years now, the FCC has focused on the extraordinary need for improved telecommunications service on American Indian Reservations. All residents of all American Indian reservations must have access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your efforts for the Crow people will translate into equal access to the telecommunications services necessary to bring about solid economic and social prosperity for our people as well. Our situation is very similar to that of the Crow Tribe, where wireless services seems particularly good, adaptable and affordable if we have a designated ETC carrier.

We request immediate FCC action on designating Western Wireless ETC status for the Crow reservation thereby making federal universal service funding available to competitive carriers we wish to have serve our reservations. We have the authority and ability to regulate these activities. The states have no authority or responsibility for service or subsidies on federal Indian trust land.

We remind the Commission that we are a domestic sovereign nation and we hold precious our right to regulate our own activities on our reservation. It is the Commission's

federal trust responsibility to insure that our sovereignty is upheld.

We specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless, submitted to the FCC on August 4, 1999, in which Western Wireless seeks ETC status to provide services to Crow tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. We know that Western Wireless has the full support of the Crow Nation; that Western Wireless stands ready to build the necessary infrastructure to provide basic and advanced wireless telecommunications services on the reservations; and that the residents of the Crow reservation want the service being offered by Western Wireless. As we view it, this is a true definition of tribal sovereignty.

The Western Wireless offering is extremely important to not only the Crow Nation but also to all domestic sovereign tribes in this country. The opportunity to have competitive, affordable wireless telephone service on our reservations should not pass us by if we want it and we do.

As a matter of protecting tribal sovereignty, this is critically important to us and to all other federally recognized domestic sovereign tribes. Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty George".

Monty George/for Glenn Wasson
Council Member/ Chairman
Lovelock Paiute Tribe

WINNEBAGO TRIBE of NEBRASKA

WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL P.O. BOX 607 WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA 68071



May 24, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and
For Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation,
Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-1847

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the FCC grant the Western Wireless petition for ETC status on the Crow reservation. The Winnebago Tribe, like the Crow Tribe, is a domestic sovereign nation and we expect the FCC to affirm our tribal sovereignty, by granting Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless for the Crow Tribe because we anticipate a similar petition for us.

For over two years now, the Federal Communications Commission has focused on the extraordinary need of telecommunications service on American Indian reservations. All residents of Indian reservations must have access to high-quality based and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your efforts in this regard will translate into the Winnebago reservation having equal access to the telecommunications services necessary to bring about solid economic and social prosperity for our people.

The time is now for immediate FCC action on several matters, including the designation of competitive carriers, like Western Wireless, as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and making federal universal service funding available to competitive carriers serving our reservation as well as the Crow.

We specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless, submitted to the FCC on August 4, 1999, in which Western Wireless seeks ETC status to provide service to Crow tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. It is our understanding that Western Wireless has the full support of the Crow Nation; Western Wireless stands ready to build the necessary infrastructure to provide basic and advanced telecommunications services on the reservation; and the residents of the Crow reservation desperately want the service offered by Western Wireless. This is a true definition of tribal sovereignty.

The Western Wireless offering is extremely important to not only the Crow Nation and the Winnebago Tribe but to all Indian country in general. The opportunity for competitive, affordable wireless telephone service on reservations should not pass us by.

This is critically important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Mallory
Tribal Chairman

cc: Chairlady Nomee
Western Wireless Corporation
Charles W. Blackwell
Commissioner Tristani
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Powell
Commissioner Furthgott-Roth

Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

Phone: (402) 857-3338
Fax: (402) 857-3339



52948 Hwy 12
Niobrara, NE 68760

May 30, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunication Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide universal Service To the Crow Reservation, Montana, CC Docket No 96-45, DA 99-187

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the FCC grant the Western Wireless petition for ETC status of the Crow reservation. The Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, like the Crow Tribe, is a domestic sovereign nation and we expect the FCC to affirm our tribal sovereignty, by granting Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless for the Crow Tribe because we anticipate a similar petition for us.

For over twenty years now, the Federal Communication Commission has focused on the extraordinary need of telecommunications service on American Indian reservations. All residents of Indian reservations must have access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your efforts in this regard will translate the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska reservation having equal access to the telecommunications service necessary to bring about solid economics and social prosperity for our people.

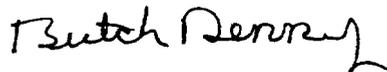
The time is now for immediate FCC action on several matters, including the designations of competitive carriers, like Western Wireless, as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and making federal universal service finding available to competitive carriers serving our reservation as well as the Crow.

We specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless, submitted to the FCC on August 4, 1999, in which Western Wireless seeks ETC status to provide service to Crow tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. It is our understanding that Western Wireless has the full support of the Crow Nation, Western Wireless stands ready to build the necessary infrastructure to provide basic and advanced telecommunications service on the reservation, and the residents of the Crow reservation desperately want the service offered by Western Wireless. This is a true definition of tribal sovereignty.

The Western Wirelsss offering is extremely important to not only the Crow Nation and the Winnebago Tribe but to all Indian country in general. The opportunity for competitive affordable wireless telephone service on reservations should not pass us by.

This is critically important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



**Arthur "Butch" Denny, Chairman
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska**

**cc: Chairlady Nomee
Western Wireless Corporation
Charles W. Blackwell
Commissioner Tristani
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Powell
Commissioner Furthgott-Roth**



Rosebud Sioux Tribe

SICANGU OYATE
ROSEBUD, SOUTH DAKOTA 57570
P.O. BOX 430
Phone 605-747-2381 — Fax 605-747-2243

WILLIAM KINDLE
President
ALEX J. LITTLE SOLDIER
Vice-President
CHARLES L WHITE PIPE, JR.
Treasurer
GERRI NIGHT PIPE
Secretary
PAT BAD HAND, SR.
Sergeant-at-arms

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 29, 2000

Re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation, Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-1847

Dear Chairman Kennard:

For over two years now, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has focused on the extraordinary need of telecommunications service on American Indian reservations. All residents of Indian reservations must have access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your effort in this regard will translate into reservations having equal access to the telecommunications services necessary to bring about solid economic and social prosperity.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe from South Dakota supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe's request to have the Federal Communications Commission grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless Corporation for services on the Crow reservation. As a South Dakota Tribe, we are concerned that the failure to grant ETC status will necessarily force the Crow Tribe, and all similarly situated tribes to defer to the state to receive telephone service and subsidies not necessarily of our own choosing. We remind the Commission that we are domestic sovereign nations and we hold precious our right to regulate our own activities on our reservation. It is the Commission's federal trust responsibility to insure that our sovereignty is upheld.

Where as referenced in our December 17, 1999 letter (attached) to Federal Communications Commission regarding Common Carrier Docket No. 96-45, we understand that Western Wireless has been denied ETC status in South Dakota. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is in a uniquely prejudiced position because the state of South Dakota has already denied ETC status to Western Wireless Corporation for South Dakota for reasons we are sure they found valid. To have the state of South Dakota making this decision for our tribal citizens on our reservation is unacceptable. We were neither consulted nor informed about the process. Surely, you can see why the Commission's action in this instance is so important for as surely as the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council does not have jurisdiction outside of our tribal reservation boundaries

neither does the state of South Dakota have jurisdiction within our tribal reservation boundaries.

We feel full ETC designation must be determined at the federal level with our advice and consent thus enabling a competitive telecommunications environment. Including the tribes in a competitive telecommunication environment not only benefits the Crow Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe but all of Indian country. Accordingly, we our full support of approving the Western Wireless petition for ETC status on the Crow Tribe requests.

As you well know, however, some reservations, such as ours, have been the last frontier in the deployment of telecommunications and information services. This has severely handicapped our people's economic and social development. The time is now for immediate FCC action on several matters, including the designation of competitive carriers, like Western Wireless, as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and making federal universal service funding available to competitive carriers serving our reservation.

We specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless submitted to the FCC on August 4, 1999, in which Western Wireless seeks ETC status to provide service to Crow Tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. Western Wireless has the full support of the Crow Nation. Western Wireless stands ready to build the necessary infrastructure to provide basic and advanced telecommunications services on the reservation, and the residents of the Crow reservation desperately want the service offered by Western Wireless. The Western Wireless offering is extremely important to not only the Crow Nation but to Indian country in general. The opportunity for competitive, affordable wireless telephone service on reservations should not pass us by.

This is critically important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



*William Kindle, Chairman
Rosebud Sioux Tribe*

cc: *Chairlady Nomee*
Western Wireless Corporation
Charles W. Blackwell
Commissioner Tristani
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Powell
Commissioner Furthgott-Roth
FCC Common Carrier Bureau
Senator Dorgan
Senator Conrad
Senator Burns
Senator Campbell
Senator Inouye
Senator Baccus
Senator McCain
Charles W. Blackwell, Esq.

P.O. Box 438
Rosebud, South Dakota 57578
Rosebud Sioux Reservation

Phone 605-747-4697
Fax 605-747-6899
E-Mail: rcc@sioux.net

December 17, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Common Carrier Docket No. 96-45
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FCC,

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe would like for the FCC to consider the Tribe's comments concerning the FCC proposed rulemaking on Common Carrier Docket No. 96-45.

The Tribe is very concerned with the low telephone penetration rate and the high cost of basic service on the Rosebud Reservation. Please see attached "Western Wireless Corporation Reservation Profile" for specific information regarding the Tribe's telephone service situation on the Rosebud Reservation.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe would like to express its strong support and interest in wireless telephony as an additional and/or cost-effective alternative to the Tribe's current wire service in our geographical area. Also encourage the FCC to create the opportunity for the Tribe to experience the benefits of competition for the Tribe's present wire line service providers. And finally express encouragement for the FCC to expedite federal law because and administrative procedures which clearly establish a universal service system at the federal level which recognizes the sovereign status of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe as a domestic sovereign nation subject to full enjoyment of the federal-tribal trust relationship.

Sincerely,



Tony Rogers, Director
RST Utility Commission

cc: William Kindle, RST Chairman

Tony Rogers
Director

Dorcas Laughlin
Secretary

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

Western Wireless Corporation
Attn: Charles W. Blackwell
Native Affairs Office
230 East Capitol St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Ph#: (202) 546-6610; Fax#: (202) 546-6665;
E-mail: NADG@wrcs.com

**Western Wireless Corporation
Reservation Profile**

General Information

Tribe Rosebud Sioux Tribe Address PO Box 430
Chairperson William Kindle

Reservation Information

Total Land (Acres):
A. Tribal Land 3.2 million Tribal & Allotted 890 thousand G. Fee Simple n/a
Total Reservation population 18,995 Total Reservation labor force 17,128
Employment rate 44% to 63% Average per capita income \$4,803
Total households on Reservation 1,185 units (tribal only)
List major towns/communities on Reservation and population(s) 20 Communities

Description of Reservation Economy

List major sources of employment on reservation Rosebud Sioux Tribe, BIA,
Todd County Schools.

Reservation Residential Telephone Service

List current Reservation residential telephone carrier(s) Golden West Companies,
US West, and Great Plains Communications.

Number of households without telephones over 50% of total household units

Indicate average monthly phone bill for residential service \$75.00

Check the box(s) which best describes barriers to telephone service:

- Local calling area results in most calls being toll.
- Installation (line) costs too high
- Monthly residential costs are too high
- Residential phone lines are shared/party lines

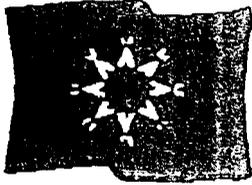
Check if telephone services are unavailable for:

- Telemedical (for tribal clinics/hospitals) Business(s) Emergency (911)
 Education/Classrooms/Computers

Tribal Contact

Person responsible for telecommunications development and/or completing this form:

Name Tony Roger Phone 605-747-4097, 605-747-4099 E-mail tuc99@qwtc.net



Oglala Sioux Tribe

SA 9A-2

Economic Development Office
 Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770
 (605) 837-5771
 Fax: (605) 867-1471



William Kennard, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th St. S.W.
 Washington DC 20554

May 31, 2000

Dear Chairman Kennard:

In our capacity as elected Tribal Leaders, the Oglala Sioux Tribe respectfully requests that the Federal Communications Commission immediately proceed to overcome the impediments for using federal support for the provision of wireless telecommunications on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana. As domestic sovereign nations, both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Crow Tribe are guaranteed the right to self-government and to the exercise of certain inherent sovereign regulatory jurisdiction over our members and our lands and people doing business within the exterior boundaries of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We feel it is incumbent upon the FCC to work with both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Crow Tribe to ensure certainty and consistency between federal and tribal laws for the provision of wireless carrier telecommunications services on our reservation trust lands.

Statutory language in Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act, as amended, provides clear authority to the FCC to grant ETC status to telecommunications carriers, including wireless carriers, such as Western Wireless to facilitate access to telecommunications services on Indian lands. Section 214(e)(6) provides for ETC designation of carriers not subject to state commission jurisdiction and states, in relevant part:

In the case of a common carrier providing telephony Exchange Service and exchange access that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State commission, the Commission shall upon request designate such common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the Commission consistent with applicable Federal and State Law.¹

¹ 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)(6) (August 1995).

Thus, the elements of Section 214(e)(6) which trigger ETC designation by the FCC are: (1) common carrier status, (2) provision of the telephone exchange service and exchange access, and (3) lack of a state commission's jurisdiction over the carrier. The Oglala Sioux Tribe feels that the Western Wireless Corporation petition meets these requirements.

In as much that both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Crow Tribe are recognized sovereign nations, we find no reason for the Government to be involved in matters that deal with the well being of our populations. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has never enjoyed a harmonious relationship with the state of South Dakota. In an effort to ensure equal and affordable telecommunications services for our residents, we have established a Utilities Commission which has full rule and regulatory authority over all purveyors. Also, Western Wireless Corporation has agreed, in writing, to abide by the Oglala Sioux Tribe Utilities Commission authority. We believe that we are best suited to determine what our population needs. We find no need to be gaddled by an entity that has historically downplayed, or ignored altogether, the rights of our people guaranteed by both Treaty and the Constitution.

As a reminder about the urgency of our request, over one half of the homes on our reservation do not have telephones. We presently have three wire carriers for our 896,000-acre reservation and the average monthly charge for wire line basic service, without extras and exclusive of long distance, is well above the norm. Our average household income is \$3500.00 and our unemployment rate is nearly twenty-two times higher than the national average. Reliable and affordable telecommunications are essential for the economic survival and security of our reservation.

For over two years now, the Federal Communications Commission has focused specific attention on increasing telephone service in rural American Indian reservations. Beginning with the tribal consultations and internal education you conducted, we are most pleased. We are supportive of your efforts and we trust you will be supportive of ours. We deeply appreciate your leadership in closing the "Digital Divide" for us.

On January 29, 1999, the FCC held the first of two field hearings on the matter of addressing the problems of the absence of under service of telephone service on American Indian tribal lands and reservations. This Albuquerque hearing was followed by a second, hearing in Chandler, Arizona, on March 23, 1999. Both hearings brought together tribal officials, interested telecommunications companies and state and federal regulatory authorities. Tribal leaders addressed what kinds of telecommunications services they wanted and needed; all the parties addressed how they could work together to improve access to such services on tribal lands. The FCC's initiative in bringing about these hearings was praised by tribal leaders and industry alike.

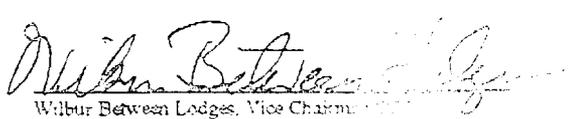
Recently, the Commission took the further step of adopting a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on "Extending Wireless Telecommunications Services to Tribal Lands" and a further NPRM on "Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service: Promoting Deployment and Subscriber Use in Underserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Inadequately Served Areas". Finally, we applaud the FCC for focusing the attention of the telecommunications industry on the low telephone penetration rate on so many tribal reservations.

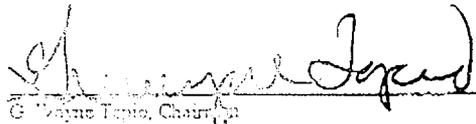
On behalf of Indian Country, the Ogala Sioux Tribe requests that the FCC quickly take formal and definitive measures designed to improve the availability of service to Indian citizens living on reservations. While decisions on the NPRM or Further NPRM have not been made we urge your most expeditious treatment of all these general matters.

For our people on both the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Crow Reservation, we specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless Corporation (submitted to you on August 3, 1999) which seeks eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status to provide service on Crow Tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. This is extremely important to us because we cannot, very simply, to have Western Wireless Corporation doing the same for us. We have met with Western Wireless Corporation and Western Wireless Corporation has our tribal support for service negotiations. We would like to know for ourselves, and the Crow people, if you have granted ETC status to Western Wireless Corporation for their reservation.

We all need your continued and expeditious actions to have the opportunity for competitive, affordable wireless telephone service on our reservation.

Thank you,


Wilbur Between Lodges, Vice Chairman


G. Wayne Tapscott, Chairman
OST Economic & Business Development Committee



MANDAN, HIDATSA, & ARIKARA NATION

Three Affiliated Tribes • Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

HC3 Box 2 • New Town, North Dakota 58763-9402

May 26, 2000

TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
701-627-4781
Fax 701-627-3805

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow
Reservation, Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA99-1847**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Three Affiliated Tribes supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the FCC grant the Western Wireless petition for ETC status on the Crow reservation. The Three Affiliated Tribes, like the Crow Tribe, is a domestic sovereign nation and we expect the FCC to affirm our tribal sovereignty, by granting Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless for the Crow Tribes because we anticipate a similar petition for us.

For over two years now, the Federal Communications Commission has focused on the extraordinary need of telecommunications service on American Indian reservations. All residents of Indian reservations must have access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your efforts in this regard will translate into the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation having equal access to the telecommunications service necessary to bring about solid economic and social prosperity for our people.

The time is now for immediate FCC action on several matters, including the designation of competitive carriers, like Western Wireless, as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and making federal universal service funding available to competitive carriers serving our reservation as well as the Crow.

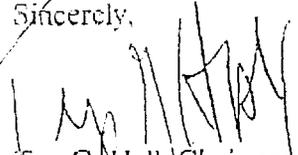
We specifically request positive and expeditious action by the FCC on the petition of Western Wireless, submitted to the FCC on August 4, 1999, in which Western Wireless seeks ETC status to provide service to Crow tribal reservation lands within the context of the universal service subsidy program. It is our understanding that Western Wireless has the full support of the Crow Nation; Western Wireless stands ready to build the necessary infrastructure to provide basic and advanced telecommunications services on the reservation; and the residents of the Crow reservation desperately want the services offered by Western Wireless. This is a true definition of tribal sovereignty.

May 26, 2000 letter to designate Crow Reservation, Montana as Eligible Telecommunication Carrier

The Western Wireless offering is extremely important to not only the Crow Nations and the Winnebago Tribe but to all Indian Country in general. The opportunity for competitive, affordable wireless telephone service on reservations should not pass us by.

This is critically important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Tex G. Hall, Chairman
Three Affiliated Tribes

Xc: Chairlady Nomee
Western Wireless Corporation
Charles W. Blackwell
Commissioner Tristani
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Powell
Commissioner Furthgott-Roth



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 The Chickasaw Nation
 Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821
 (580) 436-2625 • Fax (580) 436-4287

BILL ANOATUBBY
 GOVERNOR

May 31, 2000

Mr. William E. Kennard, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

The Chickasaw Nation supports the Crow Tribe in its sovereign request to have the Federal Communications Commission grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status to Western Wireless Corporation for service on the Crow reservation. As domestic sovereign nations, the Crow Tribe and the Chickasaw Nation, like all federally-recognized tribes, have the inherent sovereign right to regulate affairs in their respective jurisdictions. Inserting a state into the process is not proper.

We appreciate the FCC focusing on the extraordinary need for telecommunications service for Native American reservations and communities. All residents of those areas need access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services.

The Chickasaw Nation supports the Crow Tribe's request to have the FCC approve ETC status for Western Wireless services on the Crow reservation. We are concerned that, without this status, the Crow Tribe, as well as all tribes, will have to defer their inherent regulatory issues regarding wireless telecommunications and similar matters to the various states. This would be an unwelcome precedent.

Within the true definition of tribal sovereignty, the Crow people accept responsibility for their own future. It is important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated that you support them in this. Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Anoatubby
 Bill Anoatubby, Governor
 The Chickasaw Nation

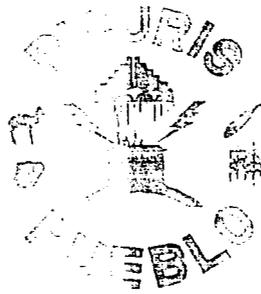
cc:	Chairlady Nomee	Western Wireless Corporation	Commissioner Tristani
	Commissioner Ness	Commissioner Powell	Commissioner Furthgott-Roth
	Senator Inhofe	Senator Nickles	Senator McCain
	Senator Campbell	Senator Inouye	Senator Burns
	Lt. Governor Keel	FCC Common Carrier Bureau	Ambassador Blackwell



Join us at the 2000
Chickasaw Festival
 and Annual Meeting

Visit Our Web Site: <http://www.chickasaw.com/~cnation>
 Governor's email address: governora@chickasaw.com

From:
The Office Of The
Picuris Pueblo Governor



Picuris Pueblo
P.O. Box 127
Penasco, New Mexico
87553
(505) 587-2519
FAX (505) 587-1071

May 26, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for
Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation,
Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45 DA 99-1847

Dear Chairman Kennard,

The sovereign Picuris Pueblo Tribal Government supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the FCC grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless Corporation for the Crow Reservation. Your decision in this matter will impact all of Indian Country in the United States.

At the field hearing in Albuquerque; each tribal leader who testified verified the need for better telephone services on our reservations. We also affirmed our status as domestic sovereign nations. Picuris Pueblo, and other tribal governments in New Mexico, the same as the Crow tribe, want the FCC to work with us rather than doing anything that may insert governments in the process.

Please act quickly to fulfill the Commission's federal trust responsibility and grant ETC status to Western Wireless for the Crow reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Manuel Archuleta".

Red Eagle Rae, Governor
PUEBLO OF PICURIS

CC: Chairlady Nomee/Crow Tribe
Western Wireless Corporation
Sen. Domenici
Sen. Bingaman
Sen. Campbell
Sen. McCain
Sen. Inouye
Rep. Udall
Rep. Skeen
Commissioner Tristani
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Powell
Commissioner Furthgott-Roth
Charles W. Blackwell, Esq.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation

PRINCIPAL CHIEF
R. Perry Beaver

SECOND CHIEF
A.D. Ellis

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF
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(HWY 75, Loop 56)
Okmulgee, Ok 74447
918/756-8700

May 31, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation, Montana, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-1847*

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation supports the Crow Tribe in its sovereign request to have the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless Corporation for service on the Crow Reservation.

As a domestic sovereign Indian nation, the Crow Tribe and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, like all tribes in America, have the inherent sovereign right to regulate affairs in their jurisdiction. This means that any action by the FCC that would insert the state into the process would be unacceptable.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, represents over 40,000 Indian people. Every individual tribe in this country zealously guards against encroachments that may erode not only their tribal sovereignty, but also the sovereignty of all American Indian tribes.

For over two years, the FCC has focused on the extraordinary need for telecommunications services to American Indian reservations and communities. All residents of Indian reservations and communities must have access to high quality basic and advanced telecommunications services.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation supports the Crow Tribe's request to have the FCC approve ETC status for Western Wireless services on the Crow reservation. We are concerned that the failure to grant ETC status will force the Crow Tribe, as well as other tribes, to defer regulatory issues regarding wireless telecommunications and similar such matters to the various states. This would be an unwelcome precedent nationwide. We feel it is the Commission's federal trust responsibility to insure that our sovereignty is upheld. Within the true definition of tribal sovereignty, the Crow people

accept responsibility for their own future. It is critically important to us and to all other tribes similarly situated that you support them in this. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

A. D. Ellis Secretary

For

R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

PB/kb



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
ADMINISTRATION

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-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

May 31, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for
Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service to the Crow Reservation, Montana,
CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-1847

Dear Chairman Kennard;

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana supports the sovereign request of the Crow Tribe to have the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status to Western Wireless Corporation for the Crow reservation. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe, like the Crow Tribe, is a domestic sovereign nation and we expect the FCC to affirm our mutual tribal sovereignty in all of its action.

For over two years now, the FCC has focused on the extraordinary need for improved telecommunications service on American Indian reservations. All residents of all American Indian reservations must have access to high-quality basic and advanced telecommunications services. We have great hope that your efforts in this regard will translate into the Northern Cheyenne reservation have equal access to the telecommunication services necessary to bring about solid economic and social prosperity for our people as well as to let you know how important this is to our tribe. We see our situation as being very similar to that of the Crow Tribe, being located in Montana, with a large landmass and a defined population where wireless services seem particularly good.

The time is no for immediate FCC action on several matter, including the designation of competitive carriers, like Western Wireless, as an ETC thereby making federal universal service funding available to competitive carriers serving our reservations. We have the authority and the ability to regulate these activities.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe supports the Crow Tribe's request to have the FCC approve ETC stat for Western Wireless services on the Crow reservation. As a Montana Tribe, we are concerned that the failure to grant ETC status will necessarily force the