

August 30, 2001

John W. Stanton
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Western Wireless Corporation
3650 131st Avenue SE, Suite 600
Bellevue, WA 98006

Dear John:

On the eve of next month's second annual Indian Training Initiative (ITTI), I write to thank you and your team at Western Wireless for all of the great work you have done to provide wireless service to tribal lands in our country. Last year's ITTI focused the spotlight on many companies that have led the way in bringing basic and advanced telecommunications services to customers, many of whom have received such services for the first time. The work of Western Wireless, Smith Bagley, Lucent Technologies, SBC Communications (now Cingular), Ericsson and others have pioneered innovative service offerings that empower people on tribal lands to share in the benefits of Information Age technology.

The ITTI is an excellent example of government working in partnership with private industry to improve service for consumers. But as we have discussed, much work remains to be done to bridge the technology gap that still deprives too many Indian people of basic and advanced services. Government has an important role to play. In this regard, I offer my support for your company's efforts to be designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) by the FCC for the purpose of providing service to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Last year, I was proud to join Michael Powell and Susan Ness at the Tate Woglaka signing ceremony to commemorate the joint service agreement between Western Wireless and the tribe. I'm very hopeful that the FCC will grant you the ETC designation. I believe that the '96 Act contemplated that competitors should be given ETC status, which can only be good for underserved consumers, like many residing on Indian reservations.

I wish you all of the best in your company's continued involvement with providing service to Indian reservations and participation in next month's ITTI.

Sincerely,

William E. Kennard

cc: The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman, FCC
The Honorable Gloria Tristani, Commissioner, FCC
The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner, FCC
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner, FCC
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner, FCC
Jane Mago, General Counsel, FCC
Dorothy Attwood, Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC
Katherine Schroder, Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC
Gerald Vaughan, Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC
Mikal J. Thomsen, President, COO, and Director, Western Wireless Corporation
Gene DeJordy, Vice President, Western Wireless Corporation