



Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

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DAVID WAIDE
PRESIDENT

September 24, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federation Communications Commission
455 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 04-70 Ex Parte Communication

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general farm organization in Mississippi. We represent over 230,000 member families. Our members rely heavily on communications and would benefit greatly if technology in rural areas could be improved.

Farm Bureau supports the merger of Cingular Wireless and AT&T wireless. This merger will be good for competition, and particularly good for rural Mississippians.

It is my understanding that a number of leading independent rural wireless carriers have already formally asked the Commission to approve this transaction, and I support their arguments. The proposed merger should have a number of positive effects including expanded coverage in rural areas. In addition, the more rapid deployment of data services, including high-speed data services, will be positive for our members in rural areas.

I am also aware the Cingular is already assisting small rural carriers in deploying new services more rapidly and at lower costs. Cingular recently required in its "request for proposals" (RFP) for broadband services that winning manufacturers provide the same terms and prices to its small rural strategic partners.

Wireless services are vital for rural Mississippians. The same services and competition already available to the urban populations should also be available to those in rural areas. This merger is a step toward improving rural wireless services and I encourage you to approve it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Waide".

David Waide
President

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