

Electronically filed

October 7, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Dortch

On October 7, 2004, I telephoned Sheryl Wilkerson of Chairman Michael Powell's staff, Barry Ohlson of Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein's staff, Paul Margie of Commissioner Michael Copps' staff, Jennifer Manner of Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy's staff, and Sam Feder of Commissioner Kevin Martin's staff. I said that

- The Cingular Wireless/AT&T Wireless merger is very positive for the public, particularly in rural areas, and for rural wireless carriers.
- Cingular is the only "big 6" carrier to reach out to rural America and Tier III carriers and embrace them in a win-win opportunity.
- The new alliance that rural carriers and Cingular are building is focusing on expanding the national GSM footprint and eventually the broadband footprint through our partnering.
- We are taking a "team" approach to growing the GSM market and rural services in America.
- I challenged the CompTel assertion that prices would rise after the merger by pointing out that (a) wireless is a highly competitive market, (b) none of us has the ability to increase prices, and (c) through the utilization of Cingular equivalent pricing from our new alliance, prices may go down faster since our company will not have to spend as much to deploy new technologies.
- We and other Tier III carriers support the merger because of the approach Cingular has used to team with us to advance service in rural "white spaces" and for advanced services in rural markets.
- Replacing AT&T with Cingular will only improve the competitive picture because of this team and because the resulting company will be a better operator and more willing and able to serve rural markets.

Pursuant to the Commission's Rule 1.1206(b), this letter is being filed electronically.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Addington
Chief Executive Officer
First Cellular of Illinois

cc: FCC Commissioners