

Filed Electronically

October 8, 2004

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

Re: Cingular Wireless/AT&T Wireless Merger, 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 Rural Cellular urges that the Commission approve the Cingular Wireless/AT&T Wireless merger as soon as possible. The new Cingular will help us and other rural wireless carriers deploy quality GSM service, including broadband, to our service areas. We are excited about working with Cingular on an initiative to build a rural GSM service alliance. The completion of the merger will accelerate this critical activity. Cingular needs to act right now to integrate its consumer offerings with those of AT&T Wireless, particularly in markets where it has little presence today. Precluding this combined marketing during the Christmas season by delaying action on this merger will not only hurt Cingular, but will disadvantage my company by reducing overall national GSM competitiveness.

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

Sincerely yours,

Richard Ekstrand
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rural Cellular Corporation

cc: FCC Commissioners