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Bobby Bowers
DIRECTOR

March 3, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 05-50 Ex Parte Communication

Dear Mrs. Dortch,

This is to support ALLTEL Communications and Western Wireless in their current merger proceedings before the FCC, because of ALLTEL's diligent, expeditious, cooperative, good faith implementation of wireless Enhanced 911 in South Carolina, its coverage of the entire state, and my understanding that this merger may well enable it to increase, improve and expedite E-9-1-1 services and coverage in rural areas.

My personal knowledge of ALLTEL's un-paralleled compliance with the FCC Order in Docket No. 94-102 and cooperation with SC state and local 911 officials derives from nine years working with all wireless service providers implementing Enhanced 911 services in SC, as the primary scrivener, designer, developer, coordinator, and manager of the SC State Wireless 911 surcharge and project.

The only personal knowledge regarding the inadequate wireless coverage in parts of rural South Carolina is anecdotal and from the poor wireless reception from any WSP in my home in poor, sparsely populated, hilly Fairfield County. It appears self-evident that ALLTEL stretched and sustained some economic losses to cover such geographically dispersed subscribers. That expanding it may well foster provision of more sophisticated communication alternatives, faster, for E9-1-1 and for the rural residences of South Carolina, is merely logical, almost tautological, speculation supported by a number of public and private officials who are much more involved and knowledgeable in that area.

This is also an opportunity to express appreciation and support for the Wireless Bureau's proceedings, orders, good offices, and requirements concerning WSPs' provision of wireless Enhanced services, without which SC would have achieved much less of its approximately two-thirds implementation of wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 services.

As always, I am available to the FCC on this or other matters at 803-734-3880 or jrion@drss.state.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Rion".

James W. Rion, Esq.
SC State CMRS E9-1-1 Project Manager

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