



March 2, 2005

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

RE: Alltel-Western Wireless Merger

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The League of Nebraska Municipalities is a non-profit corporation representing cities and villages across the state. Nebraska is truly a rural state. Of the 532 municipalities in Nebraska, only 33 cities have a population above 5,000. Omaha and Lincoln are really the only two large cities in Nebraska; Omaha has a population in excess of 391,000 and Lincoln has a population over 226,000. Of the 532 municipalities, there are 384 villages in Nebraska which have a population between 100 and 800.

This letter is in support of the proposed merger of Alltel and Western Wireless. This merger would strengthen the combined company's ability to compete against nationwide carriers and expedite the delivery of expanded services which are critically important to rural areas of Nebraska. Competition is good for all customers, but especially customers who live in rural areas! The economic viability of rural communities depends, in large part, upon the ability of rural customers to have access to high-speed wireless service as well as other quality services and technology now available to customers living in urban areas.

Cost-effective service is also important to customers. For example, customers of the merged company would no longer have to pay roaming costs in many rural areas. Other cost efficiencies to benefit customers and businesses would also result from the proposed merger. Furthermore, this merger would enhance the capability of the combined company to implement and improve E-911 service which is so vital to public safety across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

L. Lynn Rex
Executive Director