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March 4, 2005

David M. Ratcliffe  
2005 Chair

George M. Israel, III  
President & CEO

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge your support of the ALLTEL – Western Wireless merger. It is our firm belief that this action will better serve all wireless subscribers and especially those in rural areas.

Some of the expected benefits include much improved service into rural areas as well as more rapid deployment of high-speed data services. Wireless service is as vital for rural Americans as for those in urban areas. Both sectors rely heavily on advanced communications technology.

Because this transaction will result in a much larger regional presence (33 states), it will increase competition for the larger national carriers and help keep prices at a reasonable level for consumers. We ask for your favorable consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George M. Israel, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

George M. Israel, III