



## **NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

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March 2, 2005

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Nebraska Farm Bureau that represents more than 50,000 member families in all 93 Nebraska counties, I would like to offer our support of the Alltel and Western Wireless merger.

As efficient affordable communication should be available to everyone regardless of their location of residence, we feel the merger is a step in the right direction to increase competition and service all over the state of Nebraska.

We understand that this new consolidated company will have the resources to speed the development of wireless service to rural areas. We hear on many occasions from our producer and rural community members that adequate cell phone service and broadband service are hampered or non-existent in certain areas of Nebraska. Capturing the synergy of combining these companies would accelerate essential services to remote areas of Nebraska.

In addition, as an organization we increasingly rely on email, fax, and cell phones to communicate with our members. It is unfortunate when lack of service or unaffordable prices hinder our ability to communicate with all our members across the state.

The Alltel and Western Wireless merger will support price competition and expanded services which will benefit both the urban and rural areas of Nebraska. We strongly support the timely approval of the Alltel and Western Wireless merger.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Olsen  
President