

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR TOM BAKER

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March 2, 2005

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you to affirm my support of the pending merger of Western Wireless and ALLTEL. Wireless communication is one of the most significant growth drivers in the telecommunications industry. Nebraskans are fully interested in better coverage, improved reliability, and enhanced call quality throughout the state.

As Chairman of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, I would like to express the committee's current involvement with implementing Phase II of enhanced wireless services. This process includes the use of Global Positioning Satellites for locating the origin of 9-1-1 calls. A strong wireless network is imperative in order to provide full coverage for our citizens when emergency situations arise.

Nebraska is a national leader on this issue, and I believe the proposed merger, inclusive of all capabilities, would allow us to continue to move forward rapidly.

I truly appreciate your consideration regarding this important issue and welcome any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Baker".

Senator Tom Baker, Chairman
Committee on Transportation
& Telecommunications
Legislative District 44