

STATE OF KANSAS

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KANSAS SECURITY  
MEMBER: COMMERCE

March 2, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As the former vice-president and general counsel for Liberty Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Kansas Cellular, I am very familiar with wireless service in rural Kansas. I started with Kansas Cellular before any service existed in rural Kansas. I have a fair understanding of consumer issues in rural Kansas. Additionally, my constituents have regularly advised me of their concerns.

It is my understanding that this merger would address many of the issues of my constituents. Some of these benefits include:

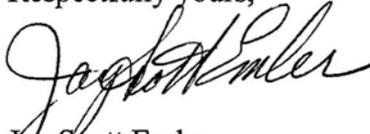
- The combined company will have the resources to speed deployment of advanced wireless service to rural customers. It will have a greater ability to procure at reasonable prices equipment and customer handsets necessary for high-speed wireless services, ensuring that rural businesses and consumers have access to the same cutting-edge services available to their urban and suburban counterparts.
- The transaction will expand the combined company's footprint to thirty-three states, eliminating roaming costs for the combined company's customers in many rural areas and increasing the number of "in-network" mobile phone users that customers can call for free.
- The merger will result in a combined company that will have a more significant regional presence. It will create a stronger competitor against the larger, nationwide wireless carriers and will provide expanded services in rural markets.
- Provision of E-911 services to rural Kansas will be more ubiquitous.

Wireless service is as vital for rural Americans as for those in urban areas. The merger of

ALLTEL and Western Wireless should bring better service to rural Kansas. I encourage you to move as quickly as possible to improve services to rural Kansas.

Trusting you will contact me should you have any questions, I am

Respectfully yours,



Jay Scott Emler

JSE/cm