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March 4, 2005

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

Re: WT Docket No. 05-50

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I would like to go on record in support of the proposed merger between ALLTEL and Western Wireless. I currently serve as the Immediate Past President of the National Emergency Number Association ("NENA") and as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Wireless 911 Board, so I am quite familiar with the importance of wireless communications in the provision of emergency response (fire, medical, and police) to our citizens. I have also been an active participant in the Commission's enhanced 911 ("E911") proceeding - CC Docket No. 94-102.

Emergency service providers need ubiquitous E911 service from both wireline and wireless providers. One of the limitations of wireless E911 service is that it is coverage dependent. By merging, Alltel and Western Wireless will significantly expand their coverage. This will directly benefit the public interest and promote the Commission's statutory public safety mandate by expanding the areas in which callers can access E911 service.

Alltel's and Western Wireless' ongoing E911 deployment is a matter of record. Phase 2 deployment on the Alltel network in North Carolina began two years ago and has

been successfully deployed within the six month time frame of each PSAP request. The people of North Carolina enjoy the safety and security benefits provided by the dedicated services of Alltel.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RNT', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard N. Taylor, ENP