



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh 27601-1096

JAMES B. BLACK
SPEAKER

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
PHONE: (919) 733-3451

March 1, 2005

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to affirm support of the pending merger of ALLTEL and Western Wireless Corporation. In the telecommunications industry, wireless communications is one of the most significant growth drivers. As a wireless communications user, I am fully interested in better coverage, improved reliability, and enhanced call quality.

As Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, I keep advised of the status of the services being provided by wireless communications providers as well as the progress of E9-1-1 development in North Carolina. I believe their merger will strengthen the capabilities of each company to implement and improve the mentioned services

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on the issues. Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Black".

James B. Black
Speaker, North Carolina House