



**UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.**  
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March 24, 2005

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

Re: Sprint Nextel Merger, FCC Proceeding Number 05-63

Dear Chairman Martin and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), an inter-tribal organization representing 24 federally recognized tribes from Texas to Maine, I write in support of the proposed Sprint-Nextel merger.

The USET tribes have a very positive working relationship with Sprint. The Sprint corporate culture has consistently supported reaching out to tribes on a number of telecom issues that affect tribal interests, including the protection of tribal historic properties, as well as the provision of communications services to tribal communities. Whether the discussion has been over the exact site of a tower in relationship to a sacred site or high-level policy discussions in Washington, Sprint has engaged in open and honest dialogue with tribal representatives, in many ways setting the standard for telecom industry relations with Indian tribes. This spirit of dialogue has resulted, on a practical level, in very good outcomes that benefit both Sprint and the Native communities Sprint serves.

It is my belief that Sprint's experience with Indian Country would be fully translated into the larger Sprint Nextel entity and that this would be a benefit to Indian Country interests nationwide.

I urge the FCC to give positive consideration to the Sprint Nextel merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James T. Martin".

James T. Martin  
 Executive Director

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*