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Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

March 29, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th St. SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Sprint – Nextel Merger, Docket No. 05-63

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write today on behalf of the National Urban League, the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement empowering African- Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. We believe that the merger of Sprint and Nextel could clearly benefit the public interest in significant ways.

Telecommunications plays a vital role in economic empowerment for the communities and the families we represent and serve. Overcoming the "digital divide" is of paramount importance for African-Americans and other people of color to be integrated fully into the economy of the 21st century. That is why the National Urban League takes a keen interest in the merger of Sprint and Nextel.

Sprint and Nextel share a commitment to diversity for their employees, their communities, their customers, and their suppliers. Both companies have demonstrated success at recruiting, retaining, developing, and promoting minorities. Both companies have made investments in the communities we represent and serve. We believe that such commitments will be continued and likely strengthened after the merger of Sprint and Nextel.

For these reasons, the National Urban League respectfully asks the Commission to take into account the positive impact this transaction may have for urban communities and all people of color. Please associate this letter with the aforementioned docket proceeding. Thank you for your consideration.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

MHM/gtb

cc: Kumiki Gibson, SVP, Administration and Chief Governance Officer
        Michele Moore, SVP, Media and Communication