



National Black Chamber of Commerce
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May 20, 2005

Secretary Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

**WC Docket No. 05-75 -- Verizon Communications, Inc. and MCI, Inc.
Applications for Consent to Transfer Control**

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The National Black Chamber of Commerce represents over 1 million Black owned businesses and has direct access to over 100,000 business owners. We provide advocacy and analysis to businesses across the country and also in 10 other nations. We work to empower communities of African descent through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity.

Our members believe in competition and American enterprise, which is why we are writing you in support of the Verizon Communications, Inc acquisition of MCI, Inc. Verizon projects to invest approximately \$2 billion in MCI's network and information technology platforms after the transaction is complete. This acquisition will spur competition, advance technology and continue to provide businesses with the services they need to excel in our economy. Verizon's prominence as a longtime business partner in our community provides us with the confidence that its acquisition of MCI will continue to serve and engage Black owned businesses as a combined company.

Verizon has an impeccable record of advancing diversity as well as providing equal opportunities and consumer choices in its business development. The company also has exemplary policies regarding Inclusive Workplace Training, Procurement Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity. The combined company will undoubtedly continue this honorable tradition. It is consistent with our mission to support this merger. Accordingly, The National Black Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically asks the Federal Communications Commission to support the proposed MCI acquisition by Verizon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Harry C. Alford
President & CEO