

May 24, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Applications for Consent to Transfer Control of Filed by Verizon Communications, Inc. and MCI, Inc., WC Docket No. 05-75

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter from the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization, is in support of Verizon Corporation's Application for Consent to Transfer Control of Filed by Verizon Communications, Inc. and MCI, Inc., WC Docket No. 05-75. The League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States through more than 600 grassroots councils across the United States and Puerto Rico. The constituents we serve range from grade school, higher, and continuing education students to laborers working towards better employment to Fortune 500 corporations to US elected officials.

Since 1929, LULAC has worked to improve the quality of life for Hispanic Americans through innovative programs making the community self-sufficient in the modern age. This year alone LULAC has opened 23 technology centers across the nation aimed at advancing education, careers, and quality of life through access to technology. LULAC strongly believes that access to advanced telecommunications, including high speed internet, are vital to the success of the Hispanic community.

The Hispanic community lags behind some 20% in computer and internet use (higher for broadband). While university systems are transitioning to fully online admission systems, LULAC is advocating for the Hispanic community

by giving greater technological access. LULAC believes this merger will speed new services to the market and aid in closing the digital divide. Though lagging behind in high technology use, Hispanics use telecommunications at twice the rate as other populations because of the strong values of family connectedness. We want to ensure that there is strong competition in the market place and that prices are kept as low as possible. This merger will help lower prices of long distance service as well as help speed new technology to market place.

There is little overlap between the two companies and we expect competition to remain strong, if not increase. LULAC has had the good fortune of partnering with Verizon for many years and they have proven to be a socially responsible partner through inclusion and diversity and we look forward to Verizon bringing this culture to the leadership of MCI. To close, LULAC firmly believes that this merger will be good for not only the Hispanic community but for America as a whole.

LULAC, as a leader of the Hispanic community, strongly urges approval of Verizon's procurement of MCI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Wilkes".

Brent A. Wilkes

National Executive Director