



May 31, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Verizon is one of the Norwalk area's most valued corporate citizens, not only as an employer but as a service provider to our residential and business communities. With regards to the proposed acquisition of MCI by Verizon, we believe that this action will increase this company's value to our community, and the Norwalk Economic Development Corporation supports the proposed acquisition.

Telecommunications is essential to the economic development of smaller communities such as Norwalk, Ohio, as we try to reposition ourselves in an increasingly global economy. The merged company's ability to keep telecommunications costs low for residents and businesses alike will be an essential factor in Norwalk's own competitive position.

We believe that this merger will serve to strengthen the company's ability to compete and succeed. The Norwalk Economic Development Corporation urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve Verizon's acquisition of MCI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bethany Dentler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bethany Dentler, CED  
Economic Development Director