

June 6, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
RE: WC Docket No. 05-75
Applications for Consent to Transfer Control of Filed by
Verizon Communications, Inc., and MCI, Inc.

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to support the applications of Verizon Communications and MCI, Inc. to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for the approval of a transfer of control between the two companies. The Illinois Telecommunications Association (ITA) is celebrating its one hundredth year of existence representing the telecommunications industry in the State of Illinois and we find it fitting that we have this opportunity to support the merger of Verizon Communications and MCI.

Over the past decade the telecommunications industry has been transformed to the point where geographical boundaries as a determinate in regulating telephone service has ended. The segregating of telecommunication services among companies has disappeared. The bundling of voice, high speed Internet connectivity and video services by the cable industry and international rivals has reshaped the competitive nature of the marketplace nationally and internationally. Verizon and MCI find themselves in a struggle to compete in this environment. Both have endured dramatic declines in market capital, revenues, and jobs; yet both have significant strengths and resources that are critical to the future of the telecommunications industry for the United States in a global economy. The combined company will be a stronger and more enduring global competitor than either company could be alone, capable of delivering the advanced network technologies necessary to offer integrated, innovative high quality and competitively priced telecommunications services to meet the national and global needs of all classes of customers worldwide.

From a public policy position, the Illinois Telecommunications Association has long been an advocate of regulatory expediency and minimal conditioning of telecommunication mergers and acquisitions. Toward that end, we would recommend that the FCC's review of these applications be done in an expeditious manner and that the merger be approved unconditionally. From our perspective,

the longer the application period, the greater the loss of synergies for enhanced network deployment. Regulatory conditions on the merger of two very well known companies would only deflect resources away from technological innovations and capital investments. The pace of change in the global telecommunications industry is such that companies need to be nimble and aggressive and not saddled with onerous regulatory conditions.

We believe the merger of Verizon and MCI will enhance the connectivity of individuals and businesses, be in the public good and advance the position of the United States in a global market. For these reasons, the Illinois Telecommunications Association requests that the Federal Communications Commission approves the merger of Verizon and MCI expeditiously and without condition.

Sincerely,

Douglas Dougherty, CAE
President
Illinois Telecommunications Association
300 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701
217.525.1044