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August 23, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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

Ohio

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing as president of Marion County, Ohio's economic development organization, Marion CAN DO!, in support of Verizon's effort to purchase MCI, Inc. Verizon currently serves Marion and Marion County. It is our understanding that the combination with MCI will allow Verizon to take advantage of MCI's national fiber network, thus providing improved service to business and government customers in areas such as Marion.

We recognize that a major restructuring is underway in the telecommunications business. With their significant presence in Marion County, we believe a combination with MCI will keep Verizon strong both as a service provider and major employer in our community.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this proposed merger.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Claborn  
President  
Marion CAN DO!

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