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MAY 10 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Bill Richardson
Governor

May 8, 2006

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. and Qwest Corporation, WC Docket No. 06-82, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing in support of an important telecommunications project that will deliver essential services to the Navajo Nation. Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. is applying for specific waivers of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules to allow it to operate as an incumbent telephone company in territory it has acquired from Qwest Corporation and to receive Universal Service Fund support for serving a very high cost area within New Mexico occupied by Navajo citizens. I urge the FCC to support this company's application, including consideration of its waiver applications that will expedite the process.

Approximately 110,000 Navajo people live within 8,000 square miles of Navajo Reservation and Trust lands in the State of New Mexico. The large majority of them, over 60 percent, have no access to the most basic telecommunications services, a deprivation that widens the educational, health care, and economic opportunity gap between the Navajo and the rest of our society. In the service territory acquired by Sacred Wind Communications, twenty-eight percent of the population has access to basic telephone services in their home and less-than one percent of the people have broadband available at home.

The Universal Service objectives, established with the creation of the FCC in the early part of the Twentieth Century, have not been met on Navajo lands. Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. proposes to increase telephone penetration among Navajo households, ultimately increasing telephone subscription to the levels seen off the Reservation. I support Sacred Wind's universal service goals and urge you to provide the resources that the company needs to achieve them.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/mmg

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