

**STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DOCKET NO. 2004-246**

**US CELLULAR  
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN  
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER  
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF WRIGHT PINKHAM**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Wright Pinkham. For 28 years, I was a District Supervisor for the Maine Department of Transportation. I then spent three years working in a management role for Somerset County, Maine. I am now retired, and I am currently running for election in Maine House District 88, which includes the town of Bingham. I live in Lexington Township, just outside of Bingham, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Bingham?

A3. Yes. Unfortunately, the Town of Bingham is, for the most part, a dead spot as far as cellular service. For both safety and convenience reasons, this could be a problem.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Having spent most of my career working for the government, I am fully aware of the safety advantages that consistent, reliable cellular phone service could provide, improving communication within various departments, such as police, fire, utilities, public works, transportation, park rangers, game wardens, etc. People up here often engage in dangerous occupations, working alone in remote outdoor areas, for example. Also, people often enjoy recreational activities that might be dangerous, such as nighttime snowmobiling. If somebody had an accident or a vehicle broke down, a landline from which to call for help could be miles away. Further, with the harsh weather we often have up here, complete with ice and snow storms, landlines are not always up and running even if you are close to a land phone. Cellular service could provide the necessary link to safety in these situations.

With most of the world using cellular phones, it would be great to connect our community to the same convenient resource. Improved cellular service would help rural areas of Maine keep up with and feel more connected to the rest of the world. I live in Lexington Township, and, although Bingham is the closest town, there is no road connecting Bingham to Lexington. It would be nice to be able to at least connect to Bingham through cellular service, particularly when traveling.

For these reasons, I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF DAVID ROSENBERG**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is David Rosenberg. I am a co-Director of the Upper Kennebec Valley Ambulance Service which serves Bingham, Moscow and the surrounding area and Northern Somerset County. My business address is 241 Main Street, P.O. Box 432 Bingham, ME 04920. I live in Moscow, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Bingham area. We have equipped all of

our rigs with cell phones just in case there is service where we are. It is hit or miss, but almost always miss.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. If we get cell service in Bingham it would allow my ambulance service to communicate with hospitals, patients, family, police, dispatch and LifeFlight. As it stands now there are many times when we could really use cell service. Occasionally we get bad directions and we are out there in the ambulance looking for a house. Because we can't get cell service, we are unable to call back to get the right directions. This lengthens our response time considerably. Often, when we are responding to an emergency, one of our people has to go searching for a phone when we really could use that person helping with the patient. We really need to be able to contact hospitals to communicate with doctors and other caregivers but given the lack of cell service in the area, we usually can't. I can remember one time when we were called to the Appalachian trail. A hiker was much more severely injured than we had realized. We desperately needed more help but were unable to get it because our cell phone wouldn't work. If a similar situation were to come up in the Bingham area after US Cellular makes the improvements they are hoping to make, we could call for more help and we could provide much better care to the patient, potentially saving a life that might otherwise be lost.

Q5. Does your ambulance service utilize LifeFlight?

A5. Yes, we've been using LifeFlight for approximately four years. Life Flight is a statewide critical response medical helicopter service. Their two helicopters transport critically ill or injured patients to wherever the necessary care is available. This service is particularly important in rural areas like Bingham, where we are far from the larger hospitals that can handle certain critical

injuries and illnesses. It is essentially the best alternative to building a large state-of-the-art hospital right here in the Bingham area. However, there are many occasions when we are responding to a call which is serious enough to warrant using LifeFlight but we cannot contact them to tell them where the landing site is because our cell phones don't work. Thus we lose critical minutes.

Having cell service in the Bingham area would greatly improve our ability to respond to emergencies. This is something that we really need in this area. We do have radios, of course, but those are also unreliable depending on where you are.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF STEVE STEWARD**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Steve Steward. I am a member of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Bingham. My business address is P.O. Box 652, Bingham, Maine 04920.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. We have no cell service at all in the town of Bingham. This is something I have been very concerned about and for the last year and a half I have engaged in efforts to attract the

attention of our U.S. and Maine Senators and Representatives to this serious problem. I have also filed a complaint with the F.C.C. I say this is a serious problem because the town of Bingham is situated on a major thoroughfare, Route 201. Most of the commerce from Canada comes through here. In addition we have a great number of tourists traveling back and forth from Canada on Route 201. If there is an accident on the road, critical minutes are lost as accident victims or onlookers will probably have to drive four to five minutes to get to a home to call 911. Then, when emergency personnel get to an accident scene, they are unable to communicate with hospitals or dispatch. Even though we have so much traffic coming through this area, we are still in the dark ages as far as communication is concerned. Cellular service is something that is vitally needed in this area.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The provision of cellular service in Bingham is entirely in the best interests of our community. From a business standpoint, the economic development of the region depends on having the required infrastructure, such as cellular service, to support a thriving business community. In addition, we have many tourists coming through this area, and most of them travel with cell phones. The availability of cellular service would make this a more attractive tourist destination.

Further, emergency services rely on the availability of reliable modes of communication. Being located along Route 201, we have a great deal of traffic coming through our community with the resulting increased risk of traffic-related accidents. In fact, traffic has nearly doubled because of the designation of a scenic byway, and the demand on our emergency services is being stretched, even without the communication problems. Improved communication would help reduce delays associated with emergency calls. Time does matter, especially if it's your family. Further, we really need to be able to provide for the safety of the people who come through our region, including wood

workers, whitewater rafters, truck drivers, and tourists. However, we cannot do that when emergency personnel are unable to communicate with one another. With many accidents on our highway (Route 201), being able to communicate with E911 would be a great help to be able to make a phone call to E911 from the highway, especially considering the often very long distances involved between homes or businesses.

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Bingham has endorsed this position. At our meeting on August 17, 2004, the Board adopted a Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding. In that meeting we discussed US Cellular's proposed expansion into the Bingham area and how it would impact our community. I have attached a copy of this Resolution as Exhibit Steward-1 to this Testimony. We do want the tower to be non-conspicuous and non-intrusive because we are located on a federally-designated Scenic Byway (another reason why we need a tower). As a resident and Selectman for the Town of Bingham, I wholeheartedly endorse US Cellular's application for Universal Service Funding and encourage the Public Utilities Commission to approve its application.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING US CELLULAR'S APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDING**

**WHEREAS, US Cellular has submitted an application to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine (PUC) seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Services Fund, and**

**WHEREAS, US Cellular will represent to the PUC that, should it obtain PUC certification and become eligible for such funding, it will extend its cellular network to provide US Cellular service in the Town of Bingham, and**

**WHEREAS, the extension of US Cellular service to Bingham is a matter affecting the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Bingham,**

**NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bingham hereby adopts the following Resolution:**

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bingham finds and declares that the extension of US Cellular service in the Town of Bingham would be in the public interest of the citizens of the Town. The availability of US Cellular service would

- (1) further the efficient delivery of basic services in the Town, including life saving fire, police and emergency medical service;
- (2) provide competition for the existing cellular and local (wire line) service providers in the Town;
- (3) contribute to the basic telecommunications infrastructure in the Town of Bingham and thereby enhance the Town's ability to retain its existing businesses and attract new businesses; and
- (4) improve mobile services in the Town, to the benefit of both Townspeople and through travelers.

Steven Steward is hereby authorized to deliver this resolution to the Public Utilities Commission in support of US Cellular's application and to testify on behalf of the Town at any proceeding held by the Commission to consider US Cellular's application.

Selectmen, Town of Bingham

*Steven S. Steward*  
*Frank C. Longley*  
*Charles R. [unclear]*

8/17/04

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF PAUL TESSIER**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Paul Tessier. I am the President and CEO of the International Northeast Biotech Corridor which seeks to promote the development of biotechnology businesses in New England and eastern Canada. I previously served three terms in the Maine House of Representatives, and I am currently running for election in Maine House District 88, which includes the towns of Bingham and Moscow. This is the seat currently held by Representative Monica McGlocklin. My business address is 41 Western Avenue, Fairfield, Maine 04937.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be

able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. From your own knowledge, can you comment on the availability of mobile service in Bingham?

A3. Yes. At this time there is no service in Bingham. I consider this to be a significant problem for two reasons.

Q. 4. Please explain.

A. 4 My primary concern is safety. I have heard numerous stories and reports about people relying on cell phone service in emergency situations such as car accidents or heart attacks in remote areas. Having mobile service available allows the immediate dispatch of public safety personnel such as fire fighters, police and emergency medical technicians.

Next, I believe that the availability of cell service could be a significant factor in attracting businesses. The Bingham region is in need of significant economic development, and the local people there have made this a high priority. However, the lack of cell service hampers their efforts, putting them at a significant disadvantage over the competition. Having cell service would remove this disadvantage.

For these reasons I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF KIRK TOTH**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Kirk S. Toth. I live in Norridgewock and my office is located in Skowhegan. I am employed by FPL Energy as its Production Leader for FPLE's Kennebec Hydro system. In that capacity I manage FPLE's hydro-electric facilities along the Kennebec River including the Weston Hydro Facility in Skowhegan, the Williams Hydro Facility in Embden and Solon, the Wyman Hydro Facility in Moscow, just north of Bingham, and the Indian Pond Hydro Facility located in the Indian Stream Township north of The Forks.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Cell coverage in Bingham is non-existent currently. Our trucks are equipped with radios which do not work in this area either. A pager will work given the most optimum conditions, which are rare occurrences.

Having cell service in Bingham would certainly benefit FPLE as far as communication in and around Wyman Hydro during normal day-to-day operations. It would also benefit us during emergency situations. For instance, if a crew member or contractor were to get hurt while

working on the dam, having cell phone coverage could expedite the response of emergency personnel. Currently, one would have to return to the powerhouse to phone for emergency service, possibly resulting in unwanted delays. With a cell phone, help could be requested immediately.

We are currently using cell phones for communication in all of the trucks operating out of our Skowhegan maintenance facility, and are very pleased with our ability to communicate with each other. Having cell service at Wyman Hydro could be critically important in an emergency situation, and it will also help in many of our daily operations.

Q4. Does this complete your testimony?

A4. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES CELLULAR  
REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNATION  
DOCKET NO. 2004-246**

**LOCAL WITNESS TESTIMONY**

**Fort Fairfield**

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF JOSEPH BUBAR**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Joseph Bubar. I am the Police Chief for the Town of Fort Fairfield Police Department. My business address is P.O. Box 350, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they intend to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal grant. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. It is terrible. There is almost no cell service in Fort Fairfield. All of Main Street is a dead spot. You just have to be in exactly the right spot standing exactly the right way in order to get a signal in Fort Fairfield. Then, even if you do get a signal, because we are so close to

Canada, we often get roaming long distance charges. For instance, we have a toll-free number that we use to contact the state police from cellular phones, but often times the call will go through as a long-distance roaming charge, or the call simply will not go through.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The Department is currently equipped with at least three cellular phones.

However, they rarely work in Fort Fairfield. Having consistent cellular service would save officers time on a daily basis, as the officers would be able to make phone calls from their police cars, instead of having to go back to the station to a landline. Not only would this convenience save time, but town safety would increase as well. For example, we have had several stand-offs in town, where suspects have called the police department threatening to murder somebody or to commit suicide. (These are usually domestic violence cases or cases involving people with diminished mental capacity or substance abuse problems.) If officers could rely on cellular phones in these situations, they could establish the whereabouts of suspects by locating their landlines. Further, officers could have one-on-one contact with suspects, even speaking to suspects without them knowing that the officers are in fact right outside of the premises.

Additionally, when people call the police dispatcher to make complaints, which are then dispatched to officers over the radio, cellular phone service would enable the officers to immediately contact directly the person making the complaint. When somebody is in need of the police department, it would be nice to be able to respond in a few minutes as opposed to a half hour or an hour, or however long it takes to get to the premises or to a landline.

Furthermore, consistent cellular phone service would bring an additional time-saving benefit to Fort Fairfield. The Fort Fairfield Police Department recently received a federal

technology grant, which will allow the department to use laptops to run license and registration checks directly from their police cars. In order for the license and registration information to transmit to the in-car laptop, the laptops would need to work in conjunction with cellular phones. Therefore, to make the most out of the technology grant and get the in-car checking system running efficiently, we really need consistent cellular service. Currently, we would not be able to rely on the use of the in-car checking system because of the lack of cellular service in Fort Fairfield.

Finally, the expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield would foster competition among the existing cellular and landline providers. The Department has been using Unicel for 8-10 years, but would be interested in a competitive service. Creating competition would increase the quality of cellular service and offer customers competitive prices.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF ROBERT CLARK**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Robert Clark. I am the Executive Director for the Northern Maine Development Commission. My business address is 11 West Presque Isle Road, P.O. Box 779, Caribou, Maine 04736. I live in Fort Fairfield, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area?

A3. Yes. I am a U.S. Cellular customer. There is a lack of cellular signal coverage in downtown Fort Fairfield. On the rare occasion when you do get a signal, you get Canadian roaming charges, not only on the calls you make but also on incoming calls you receive. My calls resulted in

\$45 in roaming charges last month alone, and I have to call US Cellular every month to request that these Canadian roaming charges be reversed. Or, depending on where you are when you make a call, you get a signal locally but then the call will switch to roaming, causing you to lose the call in the middle of conversation. Route 1A, a main road in Fort Fairfield, runs parallel to the Canadian border, so this is a big problem throughout the town.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The provision of cellular service in Fort Fairfield would be very beneficial to our business community. In my capacity as Executive Director for the Northern Maine Development Commission, I sometimes deal with business people looking to expand or relocate into Fort Fairfield. An important issue that comes up in speaking with these people is that of telecommunication services. Business development in Fort Fairfield heavily depends on having up-to-date, adequate telecommunications infrastructures, such as reliable cellular service. As it stands now, I don't know how people in Fort Fairfield conduct business by cellular phones at all. Furthermore, the tourism industry would be enhanced in Fort Fairfield if adequate cellular services were available. Many people who come to Fort Fairfield on vacation want to keep in contact with their businesses while they are away. They expect to have reliable cellular service like they do in less rural regions, and they are amazed that their cell phones do not work in Fort Fairfield. It causes quite a problem. The availability of cellular service would help the local economy by making Fort Fairfield a better business destination and a more attractive tourist spot.

Additionally, camera phones are an excellent tool for economic development, as they can be used to quickly transmit data, pictures, text messages, etc. However, without reliable cellular service, we are unable to take advantage of this tool.

Not only would consistent cellular service in Fort Fairfield enhance economic development efforts, but cellular service is critical for emergency services throughout the region.

Many people who live in Fort Fairfield are in areas without a cellular signal. If landlines go down in an ice storm or blizzard, for example, cell phones become your only outside link.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF ERIC DUMOND**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Eric Dumond. I am in charge of wood and fuel procurement for the Boralex power plants located in Maine, in Livermore Falls, Stratton, Ashland, and Fort Fairfield. I buy wood and fuel for all four power plants. My office is in Fort Fairfield, and my business address is P.O. Box 430, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742. I live in Caribou, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. Cellular service is very spotty throughout Fort Fairfield, and really needs to be improved.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Improved cellular service would make for better business communications. I do 90% of my business over the phone. I buy fuel for the four Maine Boralex biomass plants, purchasing from as far as Long Island, New York, all the way up through into Eastern Canada, all over New Brunswick, etc. I travel a lot and I rely on my cell phone to conduct business. It is pretty frustrating when I'm trying to complete a \$100,000 deal over the phone and my cellular connection cuts out on me.

Additionally, I deal with a lot of truckers who deliver wood to the plant. They carry cellular phones with them on their routes. They need to use their cell phones to call their dispatchers, in order to find out where they need to go for their next load, or to get other information. The truckers have expressed problems getting a hold of their dispatchers in the Fort Fairfield area, and they often need to come into our plant to use our office phone. It is very frustrating for them that they do not always have the communication they need.

Cellular communication is very important to me and many other people doing business here in Northern Maine. I don't know how we got by without cell phones years ago, but now that business is as fast-paced as it is, we really need them. Even up here, we are not just doing business within our own little community. We are global now, and we need to keep up with the rest of the world.

Having adequate communication is very important to us for safety reasons as well. Boralex Fort Fairfield is an industrial complex. The nature of the work we do here can be dangerous, and we have had accidents. Many of our workers have company cell phones. When

cellular service is available, people use them to communicate in and around the facility. If someone were injured around the outside facility, for example, cell phones could be used to get quickly get help. As it stands now, however, that might not be an option because service might not be available.

Further, the problem could come up where we are unable to call out in the event of an accident, for example, if our office phones are down. We do have radios at the plant, but there are times when they don't even work, for whatever reason, and we sometimes have power outages and shutdowns. We are making electricity on site, so lightning loves to come this way. We were hit five times in two weeks, and twice last week alone. Whenever this happens, we have to shut right down. We are running a steam turbine, which produces the electricity, and if all of a sudden we have a system shutdown, it has to be shut down immediately. Then, without power, our office phones do not work, and the only means of communication is through cell phones. Also, we burn wood to make the electricity, making us prone to fire on site. Again, if we had to shut power down, the only way to call the Fire Department in that situation is through cell phones, but they are not always reliable. If cellular service were reliable, cell phones would provide a good alternative method of communication whenever lightning, fire, or other problems shut down power.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF PAUL DUREPO**

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Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Paul Durepo. I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Fort Fairfield Fire Department, and have been for five years. The Town of Fort Fairfield Fire has a volunteer fire department, and I am currently the only fulltime employee. My business address is P.O. Box 350, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Fort Fairfield. We experience problems in

low lying areas. For example, there is no service at all throughout Main Street, by the Aroostook River, or within the limits of downtown Fairfield.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The Fort Fairfield Fire Department is the first responder with the ambulance service. Often times, the ambulance personnel will need to communicate sensitive information to us. Because we cannot get cellular service, we are unable to call back to get additional information. Without cellular service, all information would need to come through the radio. We cannot get on the radio and say, "Mrs. Johnson is in cardiac arrest." Sensitive information about a person's health cannot be transmitted over the radio because of confidentiality regulations, so sometimes important information is not passed on. There are patients who have been placed in jeopardy because of this problem. If we get cell service in Fort Fairfield, it would allow our Fire Department to communicate quickly and effectively with the ambulance service, greatly improving our ability to respond to emergencies.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.