



National Indian Council on Aging

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FCC Mail Room

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Cherokee Nation
Executive Director

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

*In the matter of Verizon Wireless/ Alltel Corporation Transfer of Control Applications,
WT Docket No. 08-95*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA), I offer strong support for the proposed Verizon and Alltel merger. This merger has the potential to provide a host of benefits to wireless customers around the nation, including those on Tribal lands.

With one of NICOA's main goals being the safety of our Elders, our organization has a keen interest in this proposed merger. Providing more choices for consumers and increased investment in communications infrastructure are of vital importance to not only the Indian community but also all consumers nationwide.

This merger will open up new and increased wireless service choices to consumers living in areas with heavier concentrations of American Indians. While most of the nation has access to wireless services, many rural and reservation areas still lack the access that most of the nation takes for granted. Moreover, these new rural and reservation customers will be privy to a broader network in other parts of America where friends and family live. It will also bring a greater efficiency to emergency personnel when contacted by members within Tribal lands. By merging, Alltel and Verizon will have the capability to increase investment in these rural and reservation areas and bring wireless service to more Americans.

A significant number of wireless providers offer service in the market today, so the merger of these two poses no threat to industry competition. In fact, it will likely spur more competition by allowing the combined company to provide service in more areas than they do currently. Additionally, Verizon's Wireless Open Development Initiative, has the promise of introducing the needed latest high-tech devices and creative new services to the American Indian population.

For these reasons, the National Indian Council on Aging asks you to move quickly on this matter and approve the Verizon and Alltel merger. It is in the best interests of not only Indian consumers, but also all consumers who use wireless services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Traci L. McClellan".

Traci L. McClellan, JD, MA
Executive Director