

CACC

Consumers for Competitive Choice

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July 25, 2008

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:

Consumers for Competitive Choice supports an open, diverse, pro-consumer market that stimulates price, expands choice and improves service. We are writing in support of the pending merger of Verizon Wireless and Alltel because it will improve the telecommunications market for American consumers.

Although this might sound counter-intuitive to industry outsiders, this merger will increase competition and consumer choice. It will also speed the spread of wireless broadband technology, especially to consumers in rural areas. Verizon's commitment to investing in and providing this technology to customers is well established. If this merger is allowed to go ahead, the 13 million Alltel consumers in 34 states will benefit from significantly increased choices in wireless devices, services and calling plans.

Mergers have been a fact of life in the telecom industry ever since Ma Bell's retirement in 1984, and the Verizon/Alltel merger certainly won't be the last. Of all the mergers we have seen over the last 25 years, however, Verizon/Alltel is one of the strongest in terms of consumer benefits.

Fewer than 10 years ago, we were concerned about consumers being caught on the wrong side of a dial-up digital divide. That concern was replaced with concern about a broadband divide. Now, fast-moving technology has us focused on avoiding a wireless broadband divide. This merger would certainly keep Alltel customers ahead of the curve in wireless broadband by giving them access to the benefits of the 4G and LTE technologies soon to be available through Verizon's advanced network. Moreover, the

fact that both companies use the same basic CDMA EV-DO platform should speed the access to innovations in 3G for consumers in Alltel households.

Looking beyond the benefits to customers of the two affected companies, we believe the merger will infuse the national wireless market with a new level of competition that will benefit all consumers. The net effect of new telecom competition has been greater choice, competitive pricing and faster introduction of new technology.

We're confident that the Verizon/Alltel merger will accelerate those benefits to consumers across America and we urge the FCC to give it your timely approval.

Sincerely

Robert K. Johnson
President