



August 11, 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:

On behalf of the over 500,000 members of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), I am writing to share our organization's support for the merger of Verizon Wireless and Alltel. Our support lies in our belief that this merger would encourage more competition and a higher level of service in the wireless market, resulting in an acceleration of advanced technology at competitive prices.

The Verizon Wireless/Alltel merger is of particular interest to WIPP because we represent women and minority owners of mostly small businesses who would directly benefit from the technological and market advances the merger would make possible. This is especially true when it comes to the wider availability of wireless broadband. We have previously told the Commission that access to broadband is an essential element of small business growth and continue to believe that without access to broadband, small businesses simply cannot compete.

Access to affordable advanced wireless technology – especially wireless broadband – is a survival issue for women and minority owned businesses in the 21st century. Broadband wireless is a vital competitive tool for small businesses contending with larger rivals in the U.S. and abroad. It is not surprising that 94 percent of women business owners cite broadband access as critical to the operation of their businesses. As the FCC well knows, broadband access in the near future will be synonymous with wireless broadband access.

As we understand it, extending the advanced Verizon Wireless network to Alltel customers would speed the arrival of 4G wireless broadband services in rural as well as urban areas, and to small as well as large businesses. The merger would also give customers more wireless broadband options and better value. This is something WIPP would welcome.

America can not afford a have vs. have-not divide between large businesses with access to wireless broadband and small businesses without it. It seems to WIPP that approval of the Verizon Wireless/Alltel merger would be a positive step towards

giving small businesses, especially those in rural areas, a much needed chance to compete. We urge the FCC to support this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Kasoff".

Barbara Kasoff
President