



NATIONAL HISPANIC COUNCIL ON AGING

Yanira Cruz - President & CEO

*Working to improve  
the lives of Hispanic  
older adults and  
their families*

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:

The National Hispanic Council on Aging is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic/Latino elderly, their families and their communities. It is on NHCOA's behalf that I write to you today to respectfully request you approve the pending merger between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Wireless.

Increasingly, Hispanics are forgoing land line phones in favor of wireless communications. And the Hispanic community spends handsomely to ensure they have the most reliable and versatile mobile services available to support their heavy wireless use. For example, many Hispanic households do not have personal computers at home. Instead, they rely on their wireless phones as their source for broadband Internet connections.

Family communications is another area drawing Hispanics toward wireless. As Hispanic families become larger and continue to grow, so does their need for cellular communications. The need to stay in touch with children, spouses, brothers, sisters, parents and friends compels Hispanics to rely heavily on wireless phone service.

NHCOA establishes among its program priorities for the Hispanic elderly population health promotion, disease prevention, financial security, economic independence, and accessible, affordable housing.

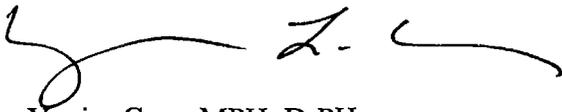
For the Hispanic elderly, wireless service when and where they need it is their key life line in times of illness or emergency. Mobile phone service can mean the difference between getting answers about their retirement income or missing that all-important call. Cellular service is likely the way an older Hispanic couple would find out they just got that new apartment with handicap access, rather than losing it to the next person in line due to a missed call.

Clearly, wireless communications are integral to the lives and communities of Hispanics and are instrumental to the Hispanic elderly to help ensure they continue living secure and independent lives.

The transaction between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Wireless will marry two of the most reliable and complementary wireless networks serving this nation. Furthermore, with Verizon Wireless continually investing in its technology and network, the merger is the fastest way Alltel's 13 million customers, including concentrations of Hispanics in key markets, will gain access to next-generation wireless services.

NHCOA recognizes state-of-the-art wireless services are critical to building stronger and more cohesive communities among the Hispanic elderly and their extended families. Please approve the pending merger between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Wireless to advance wireless technology and bolster the growth of these Hispanic communities.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yanira Cruz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yanira Cruz, MPH, DrPH  
President & CEO