



American GI Forum of the United States

Six Decades of Serving veterans and Their Families

Washington D.C. Office

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Antonio Gil Morales
National Commander

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Founder

August 10, 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 American GI Forum, founded by Hector P. Garcia, M.D., embraces as its basic tenet: Fight systemic discrimination and inequities that bureaucracies impose on Hispanic veterans. As the representative for AGIF and these military personnel who were willing to lay down their lives for their country, I am writing to request that the FCC approve the pending business transaction between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Wireless.

Our constituents, Hispanic veterans, would like to – with pride – live independently and contribute economically to our nation's future. They need all the freedom and flexibility they can get to make the most of their lives upon leaving the service. This, in part, translates to access to advanced, reliable wireless communications.

Many Hispanic veterans face the bleakness of homelessness or the uncertainty of transitional shelters. AGIF provides military veterans affordable housing, but it must be able to communicate with constituents to finalize arrangements. The same holds true for the employment counseling, training and placement services we provide Hispanic veterans. Connecting them with our outreach is critical; reliable wireless communications are imperative.

Many Hispanic veterans live in the rural expanses that comprise Alltel's primary markets. Alltel's services could clearly benefit from an infusion of resources, such as those held by Verizon Wireless, to advance network services and devices. That way Hispanic veterans could enjoy the array of services, such as wireless broadband, they need to be fully connected and contributing to the world around them. Verizon Wireless also invites entrepreneurs and small businesses to submit ideas for devices and services to connect to its advanced network. The effort is called the Open Development Initiative, and it could just be a Hispanic veteran who has that next great idea. The world of possibilities must be open to these Latino soldiers.

The AGIF continues its fight to see Hispanic veterans get the recognition they deserve for the sacrifices and contributions they make to this great nation. I ask the FCC do just a little to ease their way and approve the pending transaction between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Wireless. I thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Antonio Gil Morales
National Commander

“EDUCATION IS OUR FREEDOM AND FREEDOM SHOULD BE EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS”

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