



August 19, 2008

**Organizations Concerned
about
Rural Education**

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Member Organizations

American Association of School
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American Library Association
Association of Educational
Service Agencies
College Board
National Association of Counties
National Association of Federally
Impacted Schools
National Association of State
Boards of Education
National Community Education
Association
National Education Association
National Farmers Union
National Forest Counties and
Schools Coalition
National Grange
National Rural Electric Cooperative
Association
National Rural Telecommunications
Cooperative
National School Boards Association
Rebuild America's Schools
Rural School and Community Trust
Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative
Small School Districts' Association
of California
Verizon Communications, Inc.

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 Organizations Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE), I encourage you and the Federal Communications Commission to approve the proposed merger between Verizon Wireless and Alltel Communications. We believe the new, combined entity will be good for rural America, particularly for schools in rural communities, historically underserved by our telecommunications industries.

Potentially, this merger means broadband communications for hundreds, even thousands of schools whose students are still dialing up for their Internet access. This enables improved wireless and data communication. It could give thousands of schools, teachers and students access to the latest wireless and broadband technologies, empowering teachers and producing educational budget savings. It would allow rural and small town students to compete on a level playing field with urban and suburban students.

The members of OCRE believe the proposed merger will be good for rural America, its schools and students. We encourage you and your colleagues to approve the Verizon-Alltel merger.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Lestina". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Dale Lestina
President