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August 21, 2008

Received & Inspected

AUG 27 2008

FCC Mail Room

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:

Advances in telecommunications technology have made life easier for the millions of Americans who are deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing, or deaf blind. Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) believes that the combination of Verizon Wireless and Alltel Corporation will provide a significant number of consumers with hearing loss greater access to state-of-the-art communications tools, and we respectfully urge FCC approval as quickly as possible.

TDI actively advocates for equal access in telecommunications, media, and information technology for people who are deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf blind. We have pursued this mission for forty years and are pleased to have witnessed tremendous improvements in the communications technologies available to America's deaf and hard of hearing population.

We are always committed to ensuring that business relationships develop that help spread innovative technologies (such as broadband Internet service) and increase competition between communications service providers. The merger of Verizon and Alltel is one such relationship.

The combination of these two complementary networks will spur competition and innovation, and be of special benefit to rural Americans seeking broadband service. This is an important technology for our four special constituency groups in hearing loss.

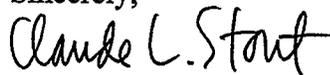
Many people who are deaf and hard of hearing now use PC-based web cams as their primary "phone." For these people, high-speed broadband is not a luxury - it is a virtual necessity. A more competitive marketplace will make this and other beneficial services more widely available and more affordable for consumers. This will expand/upgrade their capacity to regularly communicate at ease with their families, friends, and service providers.

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Alltel customers will also gain access to the many advanced technologies and services that have resulted from the Verizon Open Development Initiative, which supports the work of entrepreneurs and inventors. Verizon has invested billions of dollars in the creation and implementation of new technologies.

By approving this acquisition, the FCC can help forward the cause of spreading affordable, functional communications services to more American consumers. TDI respectfully asks that the FCC approves the merger at the earliest time possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claude L. Stout".

Claude L. Stout

Executive Director

Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.