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March 12, 2007

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ann Cole
Office of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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COMMISSION
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Re: Docket No. 060581 - TP - Petition of Alltel Communications, Inc. for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in certain rural telephone company study areas located partially in Alltel's licensed area and for redefinition of those study areas.
Docket No. 060582-TP - Petition of Alltel Communications, Inc. for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in certain rural telephone company study areas located entirely in Alltel's licensed area.

Dear Ms. Cole:

CMP _____ Enclosed for filing in the above referenced Dockets on behalf of Alltel Communications, Inc.,
COM 5 please find two enclosed letters. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

- CTR _____
- ECR _____
- GCL _____
- OPC _____
- RCA _____
- SCR _____
- SGA _____
- SEC _____
- OTH _____

Sincerely,

Beth Keating
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
106 East College Avenue, Suite 1200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: (850) 521-8002
Fax: (850) 222-0103

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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March 12, 2007

Patrick Wiggins, Attorney Supervisor
Beth Salak, Director/Competitive Markets and Enforcement
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 060581 - TP - Petition of Alltel Communications, Inc. for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in certain rural telephone company study areas located partially in Alltel's licensed area and for redefinition of those study areas.
Docket No. 060582-TP - Petition of Alltel Communications, Inc. for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in certain rural telephone company study areas located entirely in Alltel's licensed area.

Dear Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Salak:

As you know, currently pending before the Florida Public Service Commission is an application for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") filed by Alltel Communications, Inc. ("Alltel") for purposes of expanding its eligibility for receipt of federal universal service support to serve rural areas of the state and to provide low-income consumers with affordable telephone service. This application is of critical importance to rural consumers and communities and to low-income consumers because: (1) the cost of serving rural areas of the state is a barrier to providing wireless service that can only be overcome by designating Alltel to be eligible for universal service support, which support is currently available to the incumbent local exchange carrier; (2) low-income consumers are denied the benefits of affordable wireless service unless Alltel is an ETC providing Lifeline service; and (3) rural communities will be able to make available to consumers comparable telecommunications services to those offered in urban areas, which will spur economic development. These benefits are being realized in several states that have exercised jurisdiction over the designation of wireless carriers as ETCs.

Patrick Wiggins, Attorney Supervisor
Beth Salak, Director/Competitive Markets and Enforcement
March 12, 2007
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Florida consumers deserve the same benefits and Alltel stands ready to deliver these benefits to Florida consumers.

By exercising jurisdiction over the designation of wireless carriers for the limited purpose of eligibility for federal universal service support, the Commission will be taking a pro-competitive marketplace approach to enabling wireless carriers to compete and fully serve rural areas and low-income consumers without assuming jurisdiction over wireless carriers any more broadly than necessary to achieve the Commission's universal service goals.

We look forward to continued discussions regarding Alltel's application and appreciate the opportunity to address any concerns that may arise.

Sincerely,



Beth Keating
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
106 East College Avenue, Suite 1200
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Phone: (850) 521-8002
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Florida House of Representatives

Representative Curtis Richardson

District 8

Council:

Jobs & Entrepreneurship, Democrat Ranking Member
Policy & Budget

Committees:

Courts
K-12
Collective Bargaining

March 12, 2007

Commissioner's Offices
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my sincere pleasure to offer this open letter to the Commission expressing my opinion on a matter of statewide importance that I understand will be considered by the Commission tomorrow, March 13. That issue pertains to Alltel Communications, Inc.'s request that the Commission exercise its authority to consider Alltel's application for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, or ETC, in certain rural areas in the State of Florida.

As you well know, the number of eligible consumers in Florida that actually sign up for the Lifeline and Linkup service is low; in fact, dramatically low in comparison with other States. In spite of the efforts of all current stakeholders to increase the number of citizens that take advantage of these services, the number of eligible consumers signing up for Lifeline and Linkup has actually declined in the past few years. By considering applications for ETC status by wireless carriers, like Alltel, the Commission will be fulfilling its public interest responsibilities, which could ultimately lead to an expansion of Lifeline service to consumers. Given the current low wireline Lifeline penetration rates, the Commission has a duty to consider a new approach to solving an age-old problem. Lifeline and Linkup services can be extremely beneficial for some of this State's most needy citizens, and can help people stay connected with family, friends and medical professionals. Telephone service is, in fact, an important lifeline, so to speak, for many of our citizens, and we must make sure that they have every opportunity to access that service on an affordable basis.

As such, I am excited to see that a wireless carrier of Alltel's caliber has expressed interest in becoming an ETC in Florida.

Tomorrow, the Commission has an opportunity to bring new opportunities and ideas to help serve Florida's most needy citizens. I respect the Commission's thoughtful approach to the issue before it, and I look forward to the dawning of a new day in Florida for Lifeline and Linkup consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis Richardson