

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

January 28, 2003

Marlene H Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Inquiry-WT Docket No. 02-381

Dear Ms. Dortch:

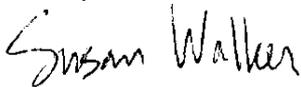
We received a copy of the FCC's Notice of Inquiry with respect to issues relating to the provision of terrestrial wireless services to rural areas. On behalf of the Area Development Partnership (Chamber of Commerce), I am writing to let you know of the necessity of reliable wireless telecommunications services throughout the rural areas served by members of our Chamber here in Hattiesburg. The Area Development Partnership serves communities in a 2-county area. Our primary goal is to attract even greater economic development to our area and see to it that our region has the necessary infrastructure to support a vibrant and growing business climate.

In recent years, all of our members have come to greatly appreciate the critical role wireless services play in the delivery of business communications throughout our community, but especially in the rural portions of Forrest and Lamar counties. In fact, our primary concern is how we can achieve even better wireless connections throughout all of our rural areas and to all of the rural customers we serve. In light of the events of September 11, 2001, the need for effective wireless communications to respond to emergency situations is increasingly important to us.

I specifically want to comment on the essential nature of continued adequate support from the Universal Service Support Fund (USF) to eligible wireless service providers. Support of wireless services from the USF will promote improvements to wireless infrastructure and better availability of wireless service in our rural areas. The wireless carriers that now serve or may potentially serve our community are just now getting the opportunity to realize benefits from the USF for their service improvements. On behalf of the Area Development Partnership, I strongly urge the FCC to make sure that substantial support from the USF remains available to our wireless carriers to help them fulfill the goal of providing service throughout our rural areas and the greater Hattiesburg community.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Susan Walker, Vice President
Chamber of Commerce
One Convention Center Plaza
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Ms. Dortch
Washington, DC
1/28/03