



Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association

Steve M. Largent
President

March 8, 2004

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

On behalf of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (CTIA), which represents more than 250 wireless service providers and manufacturers of wireless telecommunications equipment, I want to thank you and President Bush for requesting sufficient resources in the President's Fiscal year 2005 (FY05) Budget for the expedited rollout of wireless priority service (WPS) for all major wireless technology platforms used in commercial wireless networks.

The pivotal role that wireless communications services played in the aftermath to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 demonstrated that wireless systems provide critical communications services to the public as well as to Public Safety and Federal agencies. For several years, many of our member companies have been working with the officials who now staff the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop a voluntary, workable, and efficient emergency wireless communications systems for key government personnel. The industry is ready, willing and able to develop solutions to modify their commercial networks to meet these important homeland security requirements.

The requested \$78.3 million for WPS should facilitate the deployment of WPS solutions on GSM networks in FY05 and begin the work necessary for industry to develop and deploy a WPS solution for CDMA-based wireless commercial platforms with the goal of completion in Fiscal year 2006.

We pledge to work with you to encourage Congress to provide requested FY05 funding for WPS.

*Thank you Mr. Secretary
for your help - also very
willing effort!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that appears to read "Steve Largent".

Steve Largent