South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
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September 16, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex Parte Communication WT Docket No. 04-70

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of South Carolina's Farm Bureau, I write in support of the merger of Cingular Wireless and AT&T Wireless. We believe this merger will be good for competition, and particularly good for rural consumers.

We understand that a number of leading independent rural wireless carriers have already formally voiced their support of this transaction. Like those carriers, we anticipate a number of benefits from the combining of these two companies. Some of those benefits include expanded wireless coverage, particularly into rural areas, and the rapid deployment of high speed data services.

The increase in spectrum afforded by this transaction will support the deployment of advanced technology allowing new features and services. This combination leaves a healthy, competitive marketplace with a number of nationwide competitors and regional carriers from which customers can choose. The benefits, particularly to the rural community, are substantial and approval should not be delayed.

Wireless service is as vital for rural Americans as for those in urban areas. The merger of Cingular Wireless and AT&T Wireless is a big step forward in bringing expanded and better service to this sector of the population. We encourage you to approve it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

David Winkles, President
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation

cc: Robert Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau
Mary Kay Thatcher, Director of Public Policy, American Farm Bureau