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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-4705

February 16, 2001

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Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201H
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

Congratulations on being named Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). Your strong experience and understanding of the fast-changing high technology, communications sector make you well suited to lead the FCC.

We are writing you regarding the proposed merger of VoiceStream Wireless with PowerTel and Deutsche Telekom, which is currently pending before the FCC. As you may know, VoiceStream is headquartered in Bellevue, Washington, and is a substantial employer and provider of wireless services in the state of Washington. We believe the record compiled by the FCC demonstrates that this merger should be approved quickly.

The record before the FCC demonstrates that this merger promises better wireless services at lower prices for more American consumers, and it will create jobs. These benefits are uncontested. The merger will expand consumer choices for wireless service in areas where VoiceStream does not today provide service, and it will give VoiceStream access to greater expertise from other markets around the world as VoiceStream introduces new products and services in the United States. The jobs created by this fast-growing company will remain U.S. jobs, as American workers will be needed to maintain a U.S. infrastructure and to serve American customers.

Moreover, there is no way in which this merger reduces competition in the United States or in any way harms U.S. consumers. The Department of Justice found that this merger would not violate antitrust laws. Unlike most mergers, this merger will not eliminate a competitor because Deutsche Telekom does not today provide wireless service in the U.S. The record before the FCC also contains no evidence that there will be any unfair competition as a result of Deutsche Telekom's partial German government ownership. As reflected in the FCC's record, Moody's and S&P's bond ratings show that Deutsche Telekom's credit is on a par with other fully privatized telecommunications companies such as AT&T, Verizon, SBC and British Telecom.

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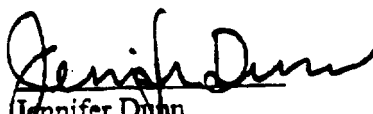
VoiceStream and Deutsche Telekom have also entered into a national security agreement with the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and have agreed that compliance with that agreement may be made a condition of their licenses. This removes any significant law enforcement or national security issues with the merger.

The FCC should also be cognizant of the international trade implications of its decisions with respect to this merger. On January 25, 2001, the European Commission, on behalf of its member states, delivered a formal *note verbale* urging the United States to abide by its express commitments under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Basic Telecommunications. If the FCC were to disregard those commitments, or to interpret U.S. law or its rules in a manner that conflicted with those commitments, the FCC would start a trade war that could damage exports in any sector of the U.S. economy, not just telecommunications.

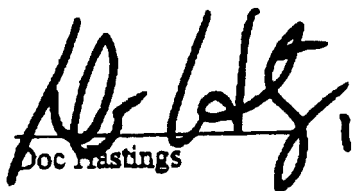
We ask that a copy of this letter be placed in the FCC's formal record with respect to this merger. We strongly encourage the Commission to complete its review of this matter as expeditiously as possible.

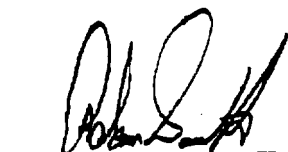
Sincerely,



George R. Nethercutt, Jr.


Jennifer Dunn


Norm Dicks



Doc Hastings


Adam Smith


Jay Inslee


Jim McDermott


Rick Larsen


Brian Baird