

ORIGINAL

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 12, 2007

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COMMISSION
CLERK

TO: DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION CLERK AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

FROM: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL (TEITZMAN) *AI*

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.

Please enter the enclosed correspondence from Representative Curtis Richardson in the above docket file.

AJT/js
Attachment

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02205 MAR 12 5

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



Florida House of Representatives

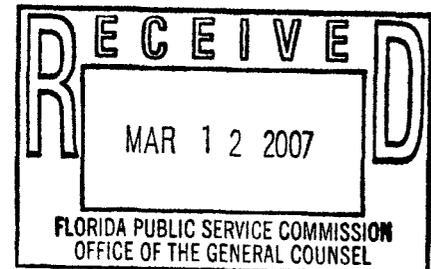
Representative Curtis Richardson
District 8

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,

Curtis Richardson