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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

October 28, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

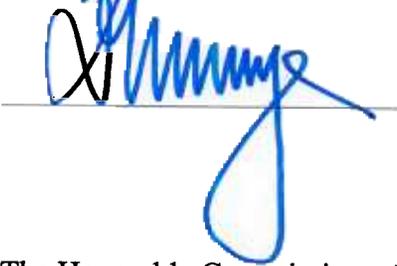
On October 7, 2003, the Commission released an order providing guidance to the wireless industry on issues related to the implementation of wireless local number portability. Like you, we believe that these rules are critical to protecting important consumer interests by removing artificial barriers that restrict competition and meaningful choices for consumers. We applaud your recent efforts to resolve outstanding wireless-to-wireless porting issues and to hold fast to the current November 24, 2003 deadline for the implementation of wireless local number portability for consumers in the top 100 metropolitan statistical areas.

We have a growing concern, however, regarding the absence of clear and comprehensive rules that would allow consumers to port telephone numbers between wireline and wireless carriers. Such intermodal porting was clearly contemplated by the FCC when its initial order implementing local number portability was issued in 1996 and is consistent with Congress' stated goal under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 of opening the local exchange market to competition. Giving consumers the ability to port telephone numbers between competing telephone services will facilitate additional head-to-head competition between wireless and wireline providers.

We strongly urge the Commission to redouble its efforts to resolve outstanding wireline-wireless porting issues as quickly as possible. The Communications Act already requires local exchange carriers to provide local number portability "to the extent technically feasible." While the FCC must act to provide additional guidance before the promise of intermodal number portability can be fully realized, these issues are not new, and we believe that the FCC can resolve them in an expeditious manner that will conserve scarce numbering resources, recognize the consumer benefits of more efficient network architectures, and infuse the communications marketplace with the benefits of additional competition.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,


cc: The Honorable Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
The Honorable Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
The Honorable Commissioner Michael Copps  
The Honorable Commissioner Kevin Martin