

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: October 25, 2007
TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk - PSC, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Adam J. Teitzman, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel *AT*
Catherine S. Beard, Regulatory Analyst II, Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement *CSB*
RE: Docket No. 070586-TP Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) by TracFone Wireless, Inc. for the Limited Purpose of Offering Lifeline Service to Qualified Households.

On October 22, 2007, the Commission received the attached letter from Mr. Bill Newton of the Consumer Action Network. Mr. Newton's letter addresses the Tracfone Wireless, Inc. Application for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier filed in Docket No. 070586-TP.

Accordingly, staff requests that Mr. Nelson's letter be placed in Docket No. 070586-TP.

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October 15, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

CC (Docket Number 96-45 Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the States of Florida, Massachusetts et al.; WC Docket 03-109)

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Florida Consumer Action Network supports and applauds the concept of universal service – for water, utilities and telephone services, for example. Telephone service can provide a lifeline for millions of Floridians. With Florida's new Lifeline auto-enrollment effort, it is important to make sure that all carriers that are able to meet the service obligations of Lifeline are able to serve Lifeline customers. Low income Floridians deserve the same access to wireless and competitive services as do other consumers. For this reason, FCAN supports TracFone Wireless, Inc.'s ("Petitioner" or "TracFone") request to become an ETC and provide Lifeline service for qualifying consumers.

In Florida, there are nearly one million eligible households, but only 14 percent of these participate in Lifeline. FCAN supported Florida Public Service Commission plans for auto-enrollment, because we believe in universal service, and in the benefits of telecommunications services. Through Lifeline, low-income Floridians will be able to keep in touch with family, make calls for job interviews, connect with service providers and contact emergency services. We believe that low income Floridians should have the same access to wireless and competitive services, as do other consumers.

We hope you approve this application quickly, so that Floridians who participate in LifeLine auto enrollment will have additional choice in the telecommunications marketplace. Competition and choice are cornerstones in American commerce; they should also be a cornerstone in the telecommunications marketplace.

Sincerely,

Bill Newton, Executive Director