



AGE

ALLIANCE FOR GENERATIONAL EQUITY

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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Ms. Julie P. Orchard, Commission Administrator
Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building, 160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RE: Docket No. 09-2511-01

Dear Ms. Orchard:

The Alliance for Generational Equity (AGE), representing Utah's seniors and low-income families who will benefit from access to lifeline telecommunications services at rates that are fair, reasonable, and affordable to those populations, strongly endorses the referenced application for TracFone Wireless Inc. for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in Utah. AGE believes that this program offers a fiscally responsible model to support economically fragile seniors who can use wireless technology as a safety tool and for low-income families who need access to the lifeline program to enhance employability and the health of their families.

AGE advocates public policies that protect the economic security and quality of life of each generation. Having access to reliable telephone service is an essential tool for enhancing the economic security and quality of life of these impacted populations. We are writing to urge you to fully support the TracFone Wireless petition to provide its SafeLink Wireless® Lifeline service in Utah. This approval will expand competition in the telecommunications services marketplace, provide seniors with an invaluable safety tool, and help low-income consumers gain economic opportunities with funding provided by the Federal Universal Service Fund and under program guidelines established for states to access this program.

Seniors and low-income families in Utah will join millions of other SafeLink Wireless® participants already qualified in twenty-seven other jurisdictions where SafeLink Wireless® is presently approved. By approving the TracFone application, low-income Utah seniors, boomer families and young consumers will gain access to essential wireless phone service. SafeLink Wireless® provides a free phone and monthly airtime to eligible consumers who are struggling to get by in today's tough economic climate. Phone service, particularly mobile phone service, is a vital tool in helping these families stay safe during emergencies, and is essential in helping participants seek and maintain employment and to stay connected with family.

We believe SafeLink Wireless® will help Utah's low-income residents contribute to a robust state economy without any drain on already scarce state revenues. It is, in our judgment, critical that TracFone's application be approved as quickly as possible to allow these at-risk families in Utah to have access to this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Dave Herman, AGE National Spokesperson
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