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*Gen. Ack
sent 5/18/10*

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House of Representatives State of Idaho

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2010 MAY 18 AM 9:16
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 14, 2010

Jean D. Jewell, Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P O Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

RE: TracFone Lifeline Application
Case No. TFW-T-09-01

Dear Jean,

I read in the paper that the Idaho Public Utilities Commission is considering an application to expand Lifeline, a public assistance program enacted and funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that will provide low-income seniors and low-income families who meet specific eligibility standards access to free telephone service. TracFone, a leading national wireless provider, has applied for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status to offer Lifeline services to low-income households in Idaho.

I have learned that in 2009 less than 20 percent of the estimated 150,000 low-income households in Idaho had Lifeline service. It is my understanding that the low penetration rate is due in part to the fact that existing Telecommunications Carriers do not incorporate adequate marketing for the Lifeline program so the majority of Idaho's low-income population does not even know that this program exists.

The severe economic recession has created enormous financial burdens on Idaho families with disproportionate impacts on low-income seniors and families. These folks are often forced to give up telephone service that had served as both a safety lifeline and a critical link to seeking and maintaining employment status. The Lifeline program, which is entirely funded by the FCC-administered Universal Service Fund, provides access to cell phones. Studies clearly demonstrate that cell phones can significantly boost the earning potential of low-income families and are a critical component of personal safety and access to emergency services.

I have three low income elderly friends who rely on their cell phones for phone service. This is especially helpful for their families who are able to reach them on an almost real time basis. I am especially grateful for the fact that they use them and not a land line. One of my friends is living in an assisted care facility and this helps her feel that she has some independence from the rules of the home. The other two are still in their own homes. They both have the wrist emergency systems should they fall, but keep their cell phones with them at all times for calls.

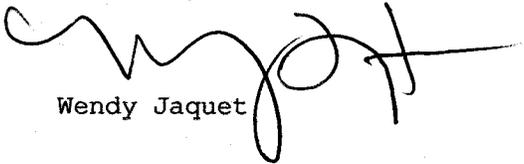
TracFone has invested substantially in its "SafeLink" Lifeline program, which is now available in the District of Columbia and twenty-three states. Idaho's low-income households should also have access to the SafeLink program

free cell phone to empower these low-income families and seniors to increase their earning potential, protect their personal safety and have access to emergency services.

SafeLink will help Idaho's low-income residents contribute to a robust state economy without any drain on already scarce state revenues. Please give prompt approval to the TracFone SafeLink application and allow these at-risk families in Idaho to have access to this valuable service.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Jaquet', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy Jaquet