



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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RECEIVED
2010 MAY 24 AM 9:19
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 17, 2010

Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: *Petition of TracFone Wireless for Designation as an ETC*

Dear Chairman Germani and Commissioners Bray and Roberti:

For many years, Rhode Islanders have paid into the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) on their monthly phone bills. Some of that money has returned to our state through the current landline Lifeline program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Now Rhode Island is poised to participate in a wireless telephone Lifeline program being offered by TracFone. Twenty-eight states have already approved TracFone's request to offer this program which is also funded by the federal USF fee. Eligible low-income and fixed income households will receive a free wireless phone and 68 free minutes a month.

I am writing to support TracFone's request to offer a wireless Lifeline program in Rhode Island. As Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, I oversee our state's social safety net for low-income Rhode Islanders.

This basic wireless phone service provides an important safety net to our most vulnerable population which will assist participants with meeting daily needs such as job search efforts, medical appointments, and family emergencies. I urge you to act in a timely manner on the TracFone request so this service can be offered to Rhode Island citizens.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Alexander
Secretary