



**MUSKINGUM ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACTION GROUP, INC**  
**MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**  
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**Nancy L. Pierce, C.E.O.**

**John Baker, Board President**

January 31, 2007

Ms. Renee Jenkins  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Case No. 02-3069-TP-ALT

Dear Ms Jenkins:

M.E.O.A.G. Inc., the Muskingum County Community Action Agency supports the efforts of AT&T to eliminate the current restrictions with regard to Lifeline Ohio services. We think that customers who are eligible for the Lifeline Ohio Program should also have the choice of purchasing the phone features that best meet their needs.

Certainly our goal in Ohio should be to encourage all who are eligible to obtain the Lifeline discount on basic phone service, yet some who could be on the program are not because they feel a need for services not covered under the plan. In addition, the current requirement to self certify a medical or safety need makes the enrollment process more cumbersome and restrictive, which is another barrier to participation.

With the wavier for restrictions approved, Lifeline program customers will still be able to order only basic telephone service. But they would also be able to consider additional services that may be beneficial to them. In that regard, Lifeline customers should be treated like other residential customers.

For the reasons stated above, we think that Lifeline customers should be given the opportunity to make their own choices for telecom services. We respectfully request that the PUCO approve AT&T's request for a wavier on the Lifeline program's current restrictions.

Sincerely,

Nancy L Pierce  
CEO/Executive Director

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