



Community Services Economic Development & Finance Tourism Workforce Development

TO: Rep. Rick Berg and IB&L Committee Members

FROM: Paul Lucy, Director
 Economic Development and Finance Division, Commerce Department

DATE: Oct. 25, 2007

RE: Impact of wireless services on state business climate

The availability of wireless services certainly has an impact on North Dakota's business climate. Businesses today operate on a "just-in-time" principal. Success in the highly competitive global market requires businesses to be immediately responsive via cutting edge telecommunications to customers, suppliers and remote workforce located throughout the world. Public sector officials also need access to up-to-date information and must be readily available to the needs of private sector businesses.

The importance of wireless communications is particularly strong for an economy rooted by industries that depend on a mobile workforce and whose customers expect immediate access to information. North Dakota's energy, agriculture, information technology and tourism industries rely on their workforce and/or customers having access to wireless communications services regardless of where they are located.

A primary benefit to having an expansive wireless service network is the benefit it offers state residents. Most people today demand immediate access to telecommunications services in a mobile setting regardless of whether they are located. Communications via email, cell phone, or internet surfing offer people a sense of comfort, security, and productivity. Areas that can offer such attributes will be more attractive and better-able to meet the needs and expectations of businesses and residents.

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