

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

Presley Announces "Zap the Gap" For Better Wireless Phone Coverage in Rural North Mississippi

Presley says wireless carriers have received over \$500 million dollars in the past five years intended to expand and improve coverage areas; 'Zap the Gap' campaign will push for those improvements in rural North Mississippi

Jackson, MS (August 6, 2009) - Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley today announced a new public outreach campaign called "Zap the Gap" to help determine areas in North Mississippi where there is consumer demand, yet little or no wireless (cell phone) coverage. The information gathered by Presley's office through Zap the Gap will be sent to wireless providers to bring attention to the areas needing service or improved coverage in North Mississippi.

"Everyone has experienced those times when you need to use your cell phone, but can't get a signal due to the location you're in," Presley said. "Zap the Gap will help us determine where these locations are so we can work with wireless providers to provide better cell phone service for consumers and make sure these millions of dollars go to fix the problem."

Commissioner Presley noted that over the past five years wireless carriers who provide cell phone service in Mississippi have received \$512,263,467 from the Universal Service Fund paid by consumers, which Presley says are supposed to be used for increased deployment of cell phone services to rural areas.

"We found that over \$500 million dollars has been given to wireless providers over the past five years for this very use and yet we still have many places in the state, especially rural areas of North Mississippi, that don't have service," Presley said. "I want Zap the Gap to push providers to fill these gaps in the coverage areas, especially since consumers are already paying for the service."

Presley is asking consumers to fill out the Zap the Gap Consumer Wireless Survey and email it to: ZapTheGap@psc.state.ms.us or mail the form to Commissioner Brandon Presley, Attn: Zap the Gap, P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, MS 39215-1174. (A copy of the survey is included below and available online at <http://www.psc.state.ms.us/commissioners/northern/zapthegap.html>).

"In today's world, having reliable, dependable cell phone coverage is an important factor in the safety and quality of life of all Mississippians," Presley said. "If you happen to live in a rural area where there is little or no coverage, please let us know. If you regularly travel through certain areas where you always experience dropped calls, we want to hear from you."

For more information about Zap the Gap, please visit our Zap the Gap webpage:

<http://www.psc.state.ms.us/commissioners/northern/zapthegap.html>

Consumers can also call Commissioner Presley's office at 1-800-356-6428 or 1-800-637-7722.



for more information contact:

Commissioner Brandon Presley ~ P.O. Box 1174 ~ Jackson, MS 39215-1174
1-800-356-6428 ~ brandon.presley@psc.state.ms.us ~ www.psc.state.ms.us



Mississippi Public Service Commission Northern District Consumer Wireless Survey

Zap
the
Gap

Last Name First Name

Billing Address City

State Zip County MS Residents please select county

Cell Number (digits only 5554441212) Additional Contact Number (digits only 5554441212)

E-mail Address

For customers with Mississippi wireless contracts, please provide:

Service Provider

For customers traveling through Mississippi with wireless contracts elsewhere, please provide:

Service Provider

Type of Service
 Analog Digital

In which state did you purchase your cell phone contract?
State Purchased

Cell Reception Experience (summarize your cell phone reception)

Please provide the most detailed land description possible. The more specific the information, the more beneficial it will be to us in our efforts to assist you. (Provide location information, if possible, in: land coordinates, miles N/S/E/W to/from city or town, highway or road #'s, mile markers or Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates. If you do not know any of this information, just describe the location in as much detail as possible.)

Describe Location

Is this location Approximate? Exact?

If the following information is available, please provide. If not, your detailed location description will be sufficient.

Township Range Section Quarter Quarter/Quarter

GPS Latitude GPS Longitude

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