



Office of the Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

December 28, 2010

Darcee Weber
Vice President, Network Management
PreferredOne
6105 Golden Hills Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55416

Re: *In the Matter of Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative*
File No. 051 0199, Docket No. C-4311

Dear Mrs. Weber:

Thank you for your comment on behalf of PreferredOne regarding the proposed consent order involving the Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative (“MRHC”). The Commission has reviewed PreferredOne’s comment in connection with its decision whether to give final approval to the proposed consent order and has placed the comment on the public record.

PreferredOne discusses recent meetings with certain MRHC members, noting their “unwillingness to engage in individual negotiations.” As you know, the consent order prohibits the MRHC from, among other things, organizing agreements among its members to refuse to deal individually with a payer or to deal only through the MRHC. The order, however, allows each MRHC member to make an independent, unilateral decision regarding how it will negotiate. If the Commission receives information suggesting that the MRHC has violated the order, the Commission will investigate and, if appropriate, bring an order violation proceeding against the MRHC.

After considering PreferredOne’s comment, the Commission has determined that the public interest would be served best by issuing the Decision and Order, which I am enclosing for your information.

The Commission appreciates your interest in this matter.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary

Enclosure