

interest. Management judgment is required in assessing the eventual outcome of these examinations. Changes to such assessments affect the calculation of TDS's income tax expense. The IRS has completed audits of TDS's federal income tax returns for tax years through 1996.

In the event of an increase in the value of tax assets or a decrease in the value of tax liabilities, TDS would decrease the income tax expense or increase the income tax benefit by an equivalent amount. In the event of a decrease in the value of tax assets or an increase in the value of tax liabilities, TDS would increase the income tax expense or decrease the income tax benefit by an equivalent amount.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The following persons are partners of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, the principal law firm of TDS and its subsidiaries: Walter C.D. Carlson, a trustee and beneficiary of a voting trust that controls TDS, the nonexecutive chairman of the board and member of the board of directors of TDS and a director of U.S. Cellular, a subsidiary of TDS; William S. DeCarlo, the General Counsel of TDS and an Assistant Secretary of TDS and certain subsidiaries of TDS; and Stephen P. Fitzell, the General Counsel of U.S. Cellular and an Assistant Secretary of certain subsidiaries of TDS. Walter C.D. Carlson does not provide legal services to TDS or its subsidiaries.

PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995 SAFE HARBOR CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition and other sections of this Annual Report contain statements that are not based on historical fact, including the words "believes," "anticipates," "intends," "expects," and similar words. These statements constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, events or developments to be significantly different from any future results, events or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following risks:

- *Increases in the level of competition in the markets in which TDS operates, or wireless for wireline substitution, could adversely affect TDS's revenues or increase its costs to compete.*
- *Consolidation in the wireless industry may create stronger competitors both operationally and financially which could adversely affect TDS's revenues and increase its costs to compete.*
- *Advances or changes in telecommunications technology, such as Voice over Internet Protocol, could render certain technologies used by TDS obsolete, could reduce TDS's revenues or could increase TDS's cost of doing business.*
- *Changes in the telecommunications regulatory environment, such as wireless number portability, local number portability and E-911 services, could adversely affect TDS's financial condition or results of operations or ability to do business.*
- *Changes in the supply or demand of the market for wireless licenses or telephone companies, adverse developments in the TDS businesses or the industries in which TDS is involved and/or other factors could result in an impairment of the value of TDS's license costs, goodwill and/or physical assets, which may require TDS to record a write-down in the value of such assets.*
- *Conversions of debt, early redemptions of debt or repurchases of debt, changes in prepaid forward contracts, operating leases, purchase obligations or other factors or developments could cause the amounts reported under Contractual Obligations to be different from the amounts presented.*
- *Changes in accounting standards or TDS's accounting policies, estimates and/or in the assumptions underlying the accounting estimates, including those described under Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates, could have a material effect on TDS's financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations.*
- *Settlement, judgments, restraints on its current or future manner of doing business and/or legal costs resulting from pending and future litigation could have an adverse effect on TDS's financial condition, results of operations or ability to do business.*
- *Costs, integration problems or other factors associated with acquisitions/divestitures of properties and/or licenses could have an adverse effect on TDS's financial condition or results of operations.*
- *Changes in prices, the number of customers, average revenue per unit, penetration rates, churn rates, selling expenses, net customer retention costs associated with wireless number portability and local number portability, roaming rates, access minutes of use, the mix of products and services offered or other business factors could have an adverse effect on TDS's business operations.*
- *Changes in roaming partners' rates, and the ability to provide voice and data services on other carriers' networks could have an adverse effect on TDS's operations.*
- *Changes in competitive factors with national and global wireless carriers could result in product and cost disadvantages and could have an adverse effect on TDS's operations.*
- *Lack of standards and roaming agreements for wireless data products could place U.S. Cellular's data service offerings at a disadvantage to those offered by other wireless carriers with more nationwide service territories.*
- *Changes in guidance or interpretations of accounting requirements, changes in industry practice or changes in management assumptions could require amendments to or restatements of disclosures or financial information included in this or prior filings with the SEC.*