TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

May 31, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for the transfer of T-Mobile's licenses and authorizations to AT&T in accordance with the companies' proposed merger (WT Proceeding No. 11-65).

Too many Texans are without access to affordable broadband service and many of them live in rural, remote areas of the state. As a result, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has been designated as the lead state agency for broadband deployment activities in Texas. Recognizing the workforce and educational opportunities created by technology, TDA is working to increase access to affordable and quality broadband service in the state. The department's efforts are based on the principles that telecommunications policies should focus on market-driven solutions that are sustainable and promote private-investment and the expansion of telecommunications technologies and services in a competitive environment for the benefit of consumers.

Proponents of this merger indicate it will result in increased high-speed Internet service to rural Texas – an objective to which I am committed and fully support. I therefore encourage the Federal Communications Commission to decide in favor of expanded affordable broadband availability in this matter.

In an increasingly international world, Texans - urban, suburban and rural alike - need access to services that meet their communications needs in order to remain competitive in business, education, and many other aspects of their lives. Again, thank you for your careful consideration of the merger proposal and the benefits it could have for Texas consumers. Please feel free to contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Staples

Todd Staples

TS/KF/kh

CC:
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

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