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9TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1409**

April 28, 2009

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The Honorable Michael Copps  
Acting Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Copps:

As you may know, Embarq and CenturyTel have filed an application for the Federal Communications Commission to consent to their merger.

As you consider their request, I wanted to inform you that Southern Indiana has benefitted from Embarq's commitment to providing broadband access to rural communities. Rural access to broadband is critical to helping small towns and communities in Southern Indiana stay competitive and connected to the world. In addition, CenturyTel has made important investments in an internet backbone, IPTV products, and other critical telecommunications technologies which will benefit consumers in Southern Indiana when combined with Embarq's local networks.

As the telecommunications voice market becomes more competitive, this merger will allow this new company to maintain the scale necessary to make broadband investments in rural communities. Rural access to broadband technology is important to me and my constituents.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. Please feel free to contact me at 202.225.5315 should you have any questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*Baron P. Hill*  
Baron P. Hill  
Member of Congress

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