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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3518

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY
AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTIONS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

April 8, 2009

0503

The Honorable Michael Copps
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairman Copps:

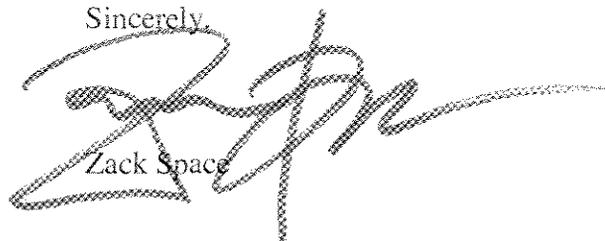
As you know, Embarq and CenturyTel have filed an application for the Federal Communications Commission to consent to their merger. I am writing to offer my support as the State of Ohio is one of nine states that has already approved the merger.

I have been pleased with Embarq's commitment to my community as a communications provider, employer, and good corporate citizen in southeast Ohio, and I am glad they have chosen to merge with another investment-grade carrier without taking on any new debt. An often-overlooked component of rural broadband policy is the importance of financially healthy providers to make sustainable investments. Economic development is especially important in the Eighteenth District of Ohio, which has been hit more severely than most by the current recession.

As the telecommunications voice market becomes more competitive, this merger will allow the new company to maintain the scale necessary to make broadband investments. In addition, CenturyTel has made important investments in an Internet backbone, IPTV products, and 700 MHz spectrum that will be enhanced to the benefit of consumers when combined with Embarq's local networks.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Zack Space