



Intertribal Agriculture Council

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May 25, 2011

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

RE: (WT Docket No. 11-65) In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations.

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Intertribal Agricultural Council was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development and use of our agricultural resources for the betterment of Native Americans. We work closely with federal agencies and Tribal governments to support individual Indian producers and Tribal enterprises. The IAC has over the last decade become recognized as the most respected voice within the Indian community and government circles on agricultural policies and programs in Indian country.

We are writing today to encourage you to approve the proposed AT&T-T-Mobile merger because it will bring direct benefits to the Indian agricultural producers and Tribal agencies with whom we work. If the merger is approved, AT&T has promised to bring high-speed wireless Internet connections to a much larger section of the country faster than it would be able to do if the merger is not approved. This includes many areas in Indian Country that are not currently served or are served only through slower, less reliable systems.

As the FCC recognized in the National Broadband Plan, "Broadband and the Internet make it possible for small businesses to reach new markets and improve their business practices. They have also become a critical pathway for individuals to gain skills and access careers." This is exactly the vision we have for Indian agricultural producers and why it is so critical that the AT&T-T Mobile merger be approved. No one else has promised these kinds of service improvements, including high-speed broadband deployment, to currently underserved areas in Indian County. Once our farmers and Tribal agencies have access to high-speed broadband, they can monitor market conditions to determine when and where to sell their products for the highest profit, monitor weather

conditions in real time, and participate more fully in agricultural extension and education programs remotely. They will be able to sell to new markets, build national brand awareness, and be able to grow and expand their businesses, which will add much-needed employment in hard-hit Native communities. But all these benefits can only come if there is real access to high-speed wireless broadband, and for the foreseeable future, that can only come if the AT&T/T-Mobile merger is approved.

This merger is truly a unique opportunity to benefit Native American agriculture and Indian Country as a whole and to make the vision of the National Broadband Plan a reality. This merger will help fulfill our mission to promote the Indian use of Indian resources for the benefit of Indian people. If the merger is not approved, we are concerned that Indian Country and the people we serve will be left behind irrevocably.

Sincerely,



Ross Racine
Executive Director

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