

*We the people of Maine...*

THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER

[www.mainepolicy.org](http://www.mainepolicy.org)

P.O. Box 7829  
Portland, Maine 04112

Tel: 207.321.2550  
Fax: 207.773.4385

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Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Living in the most northeasterly state in the Union, it is easy to forget about Maine. Although we take a certain amount of pride in our crisp, beautiful forests and feeling of quaint seclusion, some of our communities are subject to severe disadvantages that can affect our everyday lives and hinder our local economy. One of these disadvantages is the technological advances that are slow to reach our rural communities if they ever get there at all.

In this day and age, broadband and high-speed wireless internet are essential for small businesses to compete and prosper. The recent announcement that T-Mobile was being bought by AT&T came as a pleasant surprise to me. I was even more excited when I learned that the merger would make it possible for AT&T to expand world class broadband capabilities to more than 97% of the country—including the most secluded communities in Maine.

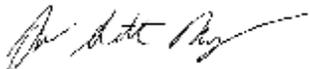
As the Chief Economist of the Maine Heritage Policy Center, I am profoundly aware of the tremendous benefits that this merger will provide to the citizens of Maine. To begin with, AT&T has proposed over \$8 billion in investments that will go towards upgrading and expanding their wireless infrastructure. This alone will create thousands of jobs across the country. On top of that, the merger will extensively increase the reach of AT&T's advanced wireless network. This will give remote areas of Maine broadband access that they never even thought possible. Using this state-of-the-art access, Maine businesses will have new opportunities to reach new consumers and service providers.

This merger represents the first step towards long term stability and rural economic development in Maine. It is essential that this merger be approved not only for the citizens in the great state of Maine but for rural communities across the country.

I hope that when the time comes, you will make the right decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Moody, Chief Economist  
The Maine Heritage Policy Center

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker