



FREE MARKETS. INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. LIMITED GOVERNMENT.

May 23, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT 11-65: Regarding the pending merger between T-Mobile and AT&T

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Tennessee Center for Policy Research, a free-market policy group, supports private sector solutions for expanding broadband deployment. We view the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile as a prime example of the businesses community's taking steps to meet market demand. We ask that you approve their effort.

TCPR has been vocal in our opposition to federal stimulus funds for broadband deployment as well as to other government-funded Internet deployment initiatives. While we adamantly support increased and improved access to broadband, we believe these efforts are the prerogative of the free market, not the responsibility of the government. The proposed merger, therefore, is precisely the type of free market solution we support.

I understand that the merger will allow AT&T to expand its 4G LTE deployment to reach approximately 55 million more Americans than at present. That's a significant project expansion. Communities, consumers and businesses across the country will benefit via faster mobile broadband speeds, improved service, and available access in more areas.

Businesses especially will welcome the advantages of this merger, as seamless broadband access will encourage increased productivity. It will also support freer communication among employers and staff, among suppliers and buyers, and ultimately customers – at faster speeds and, likely, at a lower cost to all parties.

AT&T and T-Mobile's merger will offer the widespread benefit of increased, improved broadband access for a multitude of Americans – and, best of all, taxpayers won't be left to foot the bill. That's a solution that businesses and consumers alike can appreciate.

Sincerely,

Justin Owen
President, Tennessee Center for Policy Research

cc: Governor Bill Haslam

Tennessee Center for Policy Research

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