



100  
BLACK MEN  
OF AMERICA, INC.



May 31, 2011

Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: WT 11-65: Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations**

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of our collective membership, representing the 40 million African Americans across the country, we recognize that broadband internet is no longer a luxury, but is essential to the day to day lives of members of our community. With vast numbers of disadvantaged Americans lacking affordable access to broadband, we respectfully submit these comments in support of AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile USA, Inc.

The current economic climate has been a particularly painful time for the African-American community. We experience extraordinarily high unemployment and enjoy far too few economic opportunities. At last count, more than 16 percent of the nation's black population was without a job, roughly eight percentage points higher, or twice the level of joblessness of the general population.

The merger of AT&T with T-Mobile USA stands to bring some much-needed relief to the African American community by helping to close the digital divide and increasing access to vital services in urban and rural communities. This merger will provide the infrastructure needed to expand access to critical health care services, through expanded availability of new telehealth applications, as well as educational opportunities through advanced wireless technology. A combined AT&T and T-Mobile will bring wireless broadband access to underserved urban and rural communities, create cost-savings for consumers, and increasing jobs across the country.

Across the board, African Americans have proven to be leaders in wireless broadband adoption. Almost 90 percent of African American population owns a cell phone and nearly two-thirds are wireless Internet users. Despite their high wireless adoption rate, African American wireless Internet users frequently contend with substandard and inconsistent access that plagues many urban and rural areas. Large majority-minority markets face a spectrum shortage that can lead to a poor user experience and therefore could discourage African American adoption and use of broadband.

However, if the T-Mobile purchase is approved, AT&T has made commitments to substantially increase broadband access to underserved areas and invest billions in infrastructure upgrades. These investments not only will lead to increased wireless services, they will lead to shovel-ready opportunities that put the unemployed back to work.

AT&T has demonstrated consistently that it is committed to a diverse workforce and supplier base: minority-owned firms make up 20 percent of the company's suppliers and nearly 40 percent of AT&T's employees are people of color.

Economic empowerment and healthcare equity are recognized by many as the final frontiers of the civil rights movement. AT&T's purchase of T-Mobile will lead to wider empowerment of communities of color through more educational opportunities, better access to healthcare services, expanded business development opportunities and more, better paying jobs.

By approving the transaction, the Commission has an opportunity to make a positive economic impact in the lives of the nation's 40 million African Americans and of generations to come as well as help the federal government to meet its goal to deploy the next generation of high-speed wireless coverage to 98% of all Americans. As stated in President Obama's State of the Union Address, "this isn't about faster Internet or fewer dropped calls, it's about connecting every part of America to the digital age."

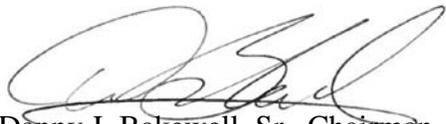
Respectfully,



Hilary Shelton, Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Advocacy  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)



Albert E. Dotson, Jr., Esq. Chairman  
100 Black Men of America



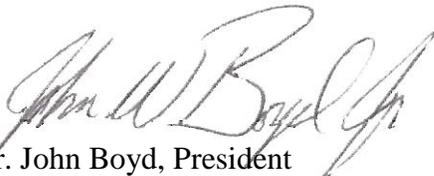
Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Chairman  
National Newspaper Publishers Association



Melanie Campbell, President & CEO  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP)



Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever, Executive Director  
National Council of Negro Women



Dr. John Boyd, President  
National Black Farmers Association



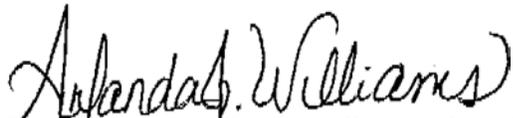
Senator Sharon Weston Broome, President  
National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women



Representative Barbara Ballard, President  
National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL)



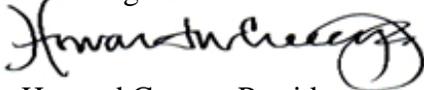
Vanessa Williams, Executive Director  
National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM)



Commissioner Arlanda Williams, President  
National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO)



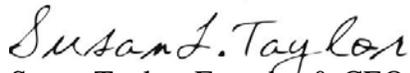
Dr. Valerie White, Chairwoman  
Black College Communication Association (BCCA)



Dr. Howard Creecy, President  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)



Jesse Lee, Executive Director  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives



Susan Taylor, Founder & CEO  
National Cares Mentoring Movement (NCMM)



Tommy Dortch, Chairman  
National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame



Ricardo Byrd, President  
National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN)



Gary Flowers, CEO  
Black Leadership Forum (BLF)

Cc:

Honorable Michael Copps  
Honorable Robert McDowell  
Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker  
Honorable Mignon Clyburn