



MARILYN EDWARDS
County Judge

280 North College, Suite 500
Fayetteville, AR 72701

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

June 13, 2011

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

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Over the past few years, broadband Internet has brought new and exciting advancements to our state. Now more than ever, people are taking this new tool with them wherever they go with wireless broadband access. AT&T is trying to take this service further by purchasing T-Mobile USA. This transaction will continue the rapid pace of incredible growth in capabilities.

The effects on Washington County will be immediate and far-reaching. Underserved areas will gain access to the best possible broadband Internet service without the lengthy and expensive process of having their homes or businesses be hardwired into a network.

Rural and other underserved areas will now be able to take advantages of such fantastic tools as distance learning, online shopping, mobile banking and telehealth – all of which will help improve the quality of their life here in Washington County and across Arkansas. We are already proud of the success of our citizens in this state, but it is heartening to imagine how much further we will go when we have the same opportunities as larger cities and states.

I encourage you and other leaders to approve this deal and help bring a new era of connectivity to our state, enriching our lives and providing new opportunities.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards
Washington County Judge