



Cocke County Partnership

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • TOURISM

433 Prospect Avenue Newport, TN 37821

June 14, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

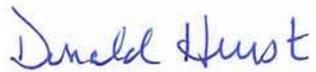
I am writing to you in reference to the proposed merger between the two telecommunications companies AT&T and T-Mobile. I felt the need to voice my support because some have voiced their opposition and I strongly agree in this merger. I hope that you take into serious consideration the future plans of the merged companies and how the outcomes would positively affect Americans in so many ways.

As chamber president, I have long advocated improved infrastructure as a "must do" to foster economic development. The planned merger will be positive because of improved benefits to the city and county whether directly or indirectly. Considering the many ways in which we use mobile technology - cell phones, tablets, GPS, wireless internet, etc. - a strong wireless broadband infrastructure is very important.

The future of these advancements hangs on our ability to grow network capacity and at present - and even more so in the future - the technological capacity to support wireless broadband is not at a sustainable level. For our largest town of Newport in particular, we need this merger to improve our competitive position and guarantee that we can attract industry and business investments. It only makes sense that a company would want to work in an area of the country that meets their material standards for success. No organization wants to - or should have to - try and work in conditions that don't facilitate their ability to work efficiently and effectively.

Cocke County is still catching up on basic infrastructure, like state roads, bridges, and waterlines. We are working hard to improve every aspect of the infrastructure in our area which also includes the wireless broadband infrastructure. The new AT&T /T-Mobile could vastly improve telecommunications in our area and across America. This is something that we very much need.

Sincerely,



Donald Hurst
President
Cocke County Partnership

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn