



Ed Hill
Craighead County Judge
Craighead County Courthouse Annex
511 Union, Room 119
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-2836



June 14, 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:

As the chief elected official of Craighead County, I stand committed in my support of organizations that are making investments to enhance the vibrant growth experienced in Northeast Arkansas. Our county experienced a growth rate of 17.4% from 2000 to 2010, according to figures from the most recent US Census. This growth has hastened the need for various infrastructure improvements necessary to maintain and adequately serve this growth. I was compelled to offer this letter of support to the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile when presented with an analysis detailing the impact on the telecommunications infrastructure in our communities.

Our rural communities need access to the enhanced telecommunications technologies that will result by uniting the national networks together. This exposes constituents in rural portions of Craighead County to the 4G LTE technology. It is unprecedented that rural Craighead County is serviced at the same technological level as the more densely populated areas. Access to wireless broadband access enables residents to research job and educational opportunities online and provides access to many specialized healthcare and other social services providers that oftentimes are beyond their reach.

Our local economy is impacted significantly by the agricultural industry. The technological advances that arise from this merger will provide mechanisms for improved efficiency by farmers. This efficiency not only results in the increase flow of capital into local economies, but also aid in conservation efforts of the scarce resources available in our county (specifically water resources through efficient irrigation control via wireless means).

For these reasons, I am placing my support behind this merger and urge you to do likewise.

Cordially,

Ed Hill
County Judge