

## CAPITOL OFFICE

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## DISTRICT OFFICE

221 E. ST. PAUL STREET  
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**FRANK J. MAUTINO**  
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 76th DISTRICT

Email

Springfield Office - [klarge@hds.ilga.gov](mailto:klarge@hds.ilga.gov)  
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June 16, 2011

## COMMITTEES

Agriculture & Conservation  
Appropriations General Services  
Insurance  
Revenue & Finance

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners,

Often when people think about the state of Illinois, prominent areas and people come to mind: Oprah, President Obama, Chicago, Wrigley Field. These are just a few examples of people and places that have brought recognition to the state, but I represent a more rural area of Illinois. Rural areas provide the backbone of their state's agricultural economy, but are sometimes left behind when it comes to wireless communications technology. The 76<sup>th</sup> district of Illinois is not that different, and increased wireless connectivity is vital for the continued economic, educational, and medical well-being of the region I call home.

As we move further into the digital age, it has become an absolute necessity for businesses that wish to compete in the global market to have high-speed broadband access. That access allows them to communicate with their suppliers, vendors, and competitors instantaneously. Additionally, it opens up a critical advertising platform, allowing businesses to instantly reach and target specific consumer groups. Currently, our businesses lack those advantages, simply because they are not afforded the same quality broadband access as their urban counterparts.

High-speed connectivity also offers numerous benefits to our students, our elderly, and our medically disadvantaged. Well-connected students and their parents are offered instantaneous communication with their teachers, and vice-versa. High-speed broadband also offers students access to a wide variety of online study tools, exposing them to an all-encompassing collection of facts, ideas, and research. Next generation Internet access also offers our citizens access to their doctors around the clock, while allowing medical professionals the ability to monitor their patients from afar.

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All of this is possible through the expanded network of T-Mobile USA and AT&T. I understand that you are currently reviewing this merger. I hope you take into consideration the above reasons, as well as the many other benefits to other communities.. This merger needs your approval to allow benefits to come into fruition. Again, I hope you choose to support this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Mautino".

Representative Frank Mautino  
Deputy Majority Leader  
State Representative 76<sup>th</sup> – District