



June 20, 2011

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

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Mr. Chairman:

If there's one thing that many young people have in common today, it's the fact that they are often glued to their iPhones or whatever other device they may have. Of course, all ages and demographics have embraced this trend, but I highlight our younger generations because these are the consumers who will drive the economy in the next decade of the 21st century. It is important to note that today's youth rely on their smartphones and mobile devices because it signals an important shift that we need to acknowledge and plan for moving forward.

Over the last ten years, we saw an enormous movement in commerce away from brick-and-mortar stores and towards e-commerce over the Internet, with people doing their shopping from home and the office. Over the next ten years, things will continue change further as people are no longer be tethered to their desktop computers and wired connections to transact business over the Internet. Mobile devices – and accordingly the network that connects them to the Internet – will account for a hugely significant part of the e-commerce market.

I point this out because a state of the art network that is capable of delivering broadband speeds to mobile devices will be key to economic development. The purchase of T-Mobile by AT&T is a critical step towards achieving that goal. It does us little good as a country if only some of our citizens have access to the next generation of technology – to allow that to happen would be to create a digital divide that will stifle the ability of entrepreneurs in some areas to take full advantage of a 4G network. But if T-Mobile and AT&T are permitted to combine resources, such a network will be available to over 97 percent of the country

Even for those of us who don't spend our days sending text messages back and forth, the promise – and inevitability – of the growing power and importance of mobile e-commerce is clear. If we are to take full advantage of the almost unlimited potential of this new and growing sector of the economy, we must have the resources in place to do so, and that is why I urge you to support this transaction.

Sincerely,

Sue O'Connor, President

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce ~ 20 Hartford Road ~ Manchester CT 06040

Phone: 860 646-2223 ~ Fax: 860 646-5871 ~ Visit us on the Web: www.manchesterchamber.com