

# City Of Torrington



RYAN J. BINGHAM  
Mayor

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August 10, 2011

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

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rural communities with greater broadband Internet access experience greater economic growth. Torrington is surrounded by close to 20 rural communities and as Mayor, I certainly agree with Department of Agriculture's statement.

As you may know, there is a proposed merger between AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile currently being discussed, which I fully support. Upwards of 97% of America will have access to AT&T's broadband network if this merger is completed. A large portion of that percentage is comprised of rural communities that previously have not enjoyed much or any access to a strong wireless Internet network.

Having access to a strong network is widely beneficial to rural communities because it can nullify the distance that isolates remote communities. Also, with greater access to internet connectivity this merger could help to quell some of the growing 'digital divide' that exists between those of higher socio-economic status and those who are less fortunate.

When making your final decision about this merger, I ask you stop to take a moment and think about the positive impacts that this merger can have on the residents of the country, especially to rural communities.

Thank you,

  
Ryan Bingham  
Mayor

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn