



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Budget - Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism,
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Reapportionment, *Chair*
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JOINT COMMITTEE:

Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR DON GAETZ

4th District

July 25, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It is a privilege for me to write this letter in support of the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. As a former school board member, Superintendent of Schools, and now, as a member of the Florida Senate, I recognize the challenges educators face during difficult economic times. It is my view that this transaction has incredible potential to greatly improve public education in America through increased access to high-speed broadband.

As you may know, today, nearly seven out of ten U.S. high school students use the Internet as a primary research tool. Unfortunately, students who don't have access to high-speed broadband miss opportunities such as this, which are becoming an increasingly critical component to today's education system. With this merger, it would help bridge the gap which currently prevents students and residents in rural sections of Florida and the country from enjoying the same access to broadband as those in more populated cities and areas.

In addition to assisting with education needs, as towns, cities and county governments struggle due to declining tax revenues, Florida lawmakers made the difficult decision during the past legislative session to reduce funding for education. In order to fulfill the obligations we have to properly educate our children, we must look beyond traditional solutions. With improved broadband service, students can take advantage of online learning opportunities to supplement

REPLY TO:

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- 420 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5009

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
President of the Senate

MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT
President Pro Tempore

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what they learn in their classrooms. By providing AT&T the authority to merge with T-Mobile and improve its network capabilities, it is an important step to move the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Gaetz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Don Gaetz

CC: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Marco Rubio