

Wise County Board of Supervisors



Received & Inspected

AUG 24 2011

FCC Mail Room

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Office of County Administrator

COURTHOUSE

WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

TELEPHONE 276-328-2321
FAX 276-328-9780

P.O. BOX 570
206 E. MAIN STREET

August 18, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: AT&T AND T-MOBILE'S PROPOSED MERGER
WT PROCEEDING NO. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I currently serve as a member of the Wise County Board of Supervisors. As a supervisor, I am honored to serve my community and am very interested in creating opportunities for Wise County to grow.

Currently, Appalachia, a town within the County of Wise, is still without adequate cell phone service and most often has no cell phone service at all. The County has worked with Verizon and promises have been made to bring cell phone service to Appalachia; however, those promises remain unfulfilled.

I strongly believe that the current proposal for an AT&T and T-Mobile merger will present a valuable opportunity for Wise County and its Town of Appalachia. By combining T-Mobile's and AT&T's existing resources and spectrum, AT&T will be able to extend its 4th Generation network to an additional 55 million more Americans than originally planned, including rural areas and small communities. Furthermore, the combined density of cell towers would provide stronger service, meaning fewer dropped calls, better voice quality and increased data speeds.

With the competitive edge provided by AT&T's state-of-the-art wireless technology, our businesses could realize a more level playing field with businesses located across the country and world. We could also benefit from the job creation and business innovation that often accompany major technological advancements.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0

For these reasons, I request your support of the AT&T /T-Mobile merger. This merger will give Wise County's residents access to jobs, resources and technology that will offer an improved quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Shortt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald Shortt

Cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn