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Office of the Governor

Sam Brownback, Governor

November 7, 2011

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FCC Mail Room

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. As you know, my home state of Kansas has a long history as a telecom hub, and the actions that you and your fellow commissioners take on this matter one way or another will have a major impact on our local economy. So it is with great concern for jobs in Kansas that I write to urge you to thoroughly investigate the economic ramifications of this merger before you hand down your spectrum allocation rulings.

Overland Park, Kansas is home to the corporate headquarters of the wireless carrier Sprint. Sprint currently captures approximately 15% of the nation's wireless market and houses around 7,000 jobs in the Kansas City metro area. There is great concern here that the AT&T/T-Mobile merger could lead to a domino effect of industry actor consolidations that would result in a less competitive marketplace for wireless customers and significant job losses across the board, particularly in the Kansas City area.

In fact, economic concerns such as these were highlighted by the Department of Justice's recently filed antitrust lawsuit against the proposed merger. I would encourage you to take a regulatory time out and allow the courts to process the legal ramifications of the proposal. Also, as a general matter, I think that making broad sweeping decisions that will fundamentally alter the landscape of the United States' telecom industry during this time of economic uncertainty is unwise.

My hope is that all of these considerations are being fully addressed and carefully considered as you go about your work of adjudicating this and other spectrum allocation proposals. I appreciate your work to ensure that our nation's wireless customers have access to the best technology at the most competitive price, and if I can provide any helpful information during your deliberations, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Brownback".

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

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