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SPEAKER

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FCC Mail Room

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November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**WT 11-65: *In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations***

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. As the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, I am charged with fighting for the best interests of my constituents. I believe this merger will be beneficial to the individuals, families, and small businesses of Puerto Rico and I urge you to approve it.

Puerto Rico, as an island economy, is highly dependent on external trade and resources and quickly feels the impact of a national and global economic downturn. Today, unemployment on the island stands at 15.5%, much higher than the national average of 9.1%.

The poor employment situation in Puerto Rico is compounded, among other things, by the fact that deployment and access to broadband on the island lags behind our mainland counterparts. According to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, a full 45% of Puerto Ricans do not have access to high-speed broadband Internet service.

Public sector investment can only go so far to expand high-speed broadband, and the high cost of infrastructure build-out and network operation on an island so far from the

mainland is problematic. Thankfully, the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile offers a private sector solution to the problem of limited broadband coverage, given that AT&T will provide the latest generation of high-speed mobile broadband to 97% of all Americans, if the deal is approved. The \$8 billion investment in new and improved wireless and high-speed networks would result in an additional 1.5 million square miles of coverage nationally, including considerable additional coverage in Puerto Rico, bringing substantial benefits to the communities here.

For instance, Puerto Rico's many small businesses would undoubtedly be enhanced by the build-out of 4G LTE technology through applications that could help businesses find and service new markets and stay connected to their current customers. Moreover, numerous sectors of the Puerto Rican economy such as high-tech and pharmaceutical manufacturers can only move forward and continue to grow with high-speed broadband access. With our nation's economy continuing to be driven by innovation, the tangible collaborative benefits of high-speed internet access touch every facet of life in Puerto Rico; from education in our classrooms to the ability of our businesses to respond to emerging global trends.

A significant segment of Puerto Rico's economy is the BIO-Pharma sector which supports 200,000 direct and indirect jobs in PR. All the major pharmaceuticals have sites in Puerto Rico that produce a great variety of products to serve the local, U.S., and world markets. Vital to Puerto Rico's economy, I believe that this sector's global competitiveness will be enhanced by the expanded access to Mobile Broadband in Puerto Rico and that this sector is representative of the type of economic stimulus that expanded broadband access can have on Puerto Rico's economy.

But beyond the clear benefits to business and industry, access to high-speed broadband would enhance our island's schools, libraries, and other educational institutions. Expanded broadband access is a down payment on future economic growth as it affords students the opportunity to watch live video lectures from teachers and professors located around the world, an especially important service for our island-bound students. Job seekers could quickly access the latest career opportunities online, and new hires would be able to access job training courses with efficiency and ease.

Additionally, as more consumers stream audio and video, and use other high-bandwidth applications from their mobile devices, addressing the issue of spectrum exhaust becomes even more important, especially for our Island. Spectrum is the invisible waves that carry wireless communications. From cell phones to garage door openers – any device without wires runs over these waves.



The combination of AT&T and T-Mobile's network assets and spectrum resources will allow the combined company to add wireless network capacity – the functional equivalent of new spectrum helping alleviate current and future spectrum constraints and enabling more individuals to enjoy the beneficial applications of high-speed mobile broadband.

The benefits of high-speed broadband deployment to our island would be numerous, and we simply can't afford to forego the opportunity that the merger will provide. As you review this merger, I ask that you consider the positive effects that it would have on the struggling businesses and families of Puerto Rico.

Cordially,



Jennifer A. González Colón

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell