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September 17, 2009

**1553**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to urge the FCC's prompt consideration of the proposed AT&T/Centennial merger. As you know, my home state of Indiana is served by both of these companies and it is my understanding that the proposed merger has been under review at the Commission for well over 180 days. I am hopeful that this merger has the potential to provide numerous benefits to Indiana, especially by protecting jobs and providing advanced wireless voice and broadband services that are so often lacking in many of our rural and non-urban areas.

For example, I would note that Centennial currently has a call center in Ft. Wayne – which now has an unemployment rate of almost 11 percent – that employs about 400 fulltime employees, in addition to another 400 employees employed throughout Indiana. As you may know, Indiana has been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn and communities such as Kokomo and Elkhart – areas where Centennial operates – have reported some of the highest unemployment rates (approaching 20 percent) in the country. It is my understanding from AT&T that should the merger be finalized their intent is to upgrade the wireless voice and broadband service in Indiana, which hopefully continues to make these jobs important to AT&T's operations.

Finally, I would point out that winter is rapidly approaching in Indiana. This might seem trivial, but any upgrades in service would be greatly reduced, if not prevented, during the winter months that are so well known to those of us who are Hoosiers. I only point this out as a matter of practical consideration.

Your attention to this matter is genuinely appreciated.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh