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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to you to inquire about the status of the recent agreement by AT&T to purchase certain wireless systems that Verizon Wireless is required to divest in certain rural areas in connection with its ALLTEL acquisition. As I understand it, the FCC has been considering this transaction for over one year now.

Once this process is given final approval by the FCC, AT&T will be able to invest \$400 million to build out its network in connection with this transaction. The majority of this investment will take place in rural areas, where access to broadband and other advanced telecommunications technologies has lagged. This substantial investment is expected to create jobs and stimulate the economy, which is especially important in difficult economic times like these.

This transaction will also bring much needed broadband service to many new areas. Consumers will benefit from having AT&T as an option when shopping for wireless services and devices. At least 18 states and 1.5 million customers mostly in rural communities stand to be impacted by this purchase. The majority of these are located in areas where AT&T currently has little or no presence. In my home state of Colorado at least 30 counties would be impacted with more consumer benefits and choices.

I also understand that the transaction does not pose any threat to competition. The Department of Justice's Antitrust Division has reviewed the approved transaction. The benefits of this transaction are clear – job creation, investment, an improved telecommunications infrastructure for rural America, increased competition and more choices for consumers.

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Of course, I ask that you consider such action consistent with applicable law and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact my staff member Alfonso Lopez at alfonso.lopez@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4761. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John T. Salazar
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael Copps
The Honorable Robert McDowell
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker