

IKE SKELTON
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2504
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2876
website: www.house.gov/skelton

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2504

September 23, 2010

514-B N.W. SEVEN HIGHWAY
BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64014-2733
(816) 228-4242

1401 SOUTHWEST BLVD., SUITE 101
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109-2429
(573) 636-3499

219 NORTH ADAMS STREET
LEBANON, MO 65536-3000
(417) 532-7964

908 THOMPSON BLVD.
SEDALIA, MO 65301-4593
(660) 826-2675

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

WCB
CenturyLink/Qwest
1605

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It has come to my attention CenturyLink and Qwest Communications filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission on May 10 for approval of their proposed merger, and it has already received approval for the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commissions. I am writing to express my support for the transaction, and to encourage expeditious consideration by the Commission.

CenturyLink is an important part of my state's economy, serving thousands of homes and businesses, and investing hundreds of millions of dollars in its network. The company demonstrated its records as a communications provider, an employer and a good corporate citizen. I am encouraged that CenturyLink has a good track record of integrating companies it acquires without interruptions in quality customer service and operations, including its July 2009 acquisition of Embarq.

The CenturyLink-Qwest merger will benefit consumers in my state and across the nation by enhancing the new company's ability to invest in broadband infrastructure and expand its offering of innovative services. Continued investment in broadband networks will enhance the economic competitiveness of community served, and new IPTV services will give consumers another choice, beyond cable and satellite TV. It is also encouraging that any merger is being accomplished as a stock-for-stock transaction, without any new debt or financing, an approach that will enhance the financial stability of the combined entity.

Very truly yours,



IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress

IS: ks
Cc: Claudia Sands