

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2010

1544

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

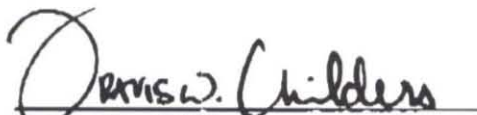
As you know, CenturyLink and Qwest Communications filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission on May 10, 2010 for approval of their proposed merger, and it has already received approval from the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission. We are writing to encourage timely consideration of the merger application.

CenturyLink and Qwest Communications are important contributors to our nation's economies, serving thousands of homes and businesses, and investing hundreds of millions of dollars in their broadband and voice networks. Continued investment in broadband networks in rural areas will enhance the economic competitiveness of each community served. We believe this merger will benefit consumers in rural America by enhancing the new company's ability to invest in much-needed broadband infrastructure and expand its offering of innovative services, such as IPTV. We are also 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.

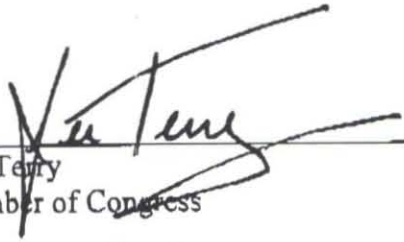
Investment in our nation's rural broadband infrastructure will help rural America to attract economic development opportunities and a 21st century workforce. It is encouraging that the merger is being accomplished as a stock-for-stock transaction, without any new debt or financing, an approach that will enhance the financial stability of the combined entity.

We thank you for a thoughtful and timely review of CenturyLink and Qwest Communications' application, and we appreciate your consideration of our views.


Sincerely,


Travis W. Childers
Member of Congress


Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Betsy Markey
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



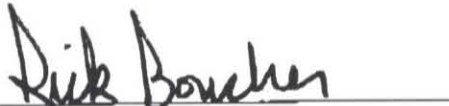
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



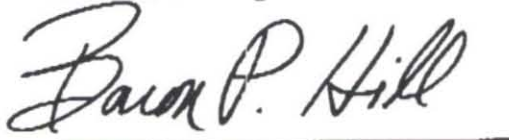
Cliff Stearns
Member of Congress



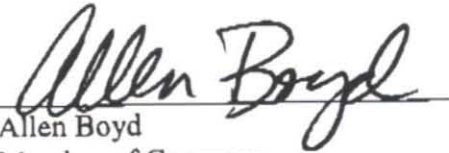
Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



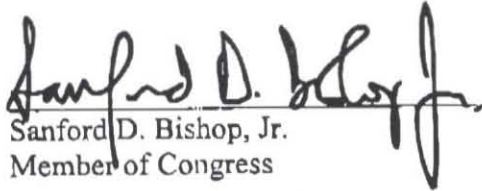
Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Baron P. Hill
Member of Congress



Allen Boyd
Member of Congress



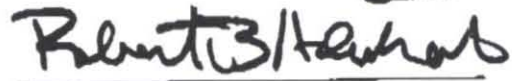
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



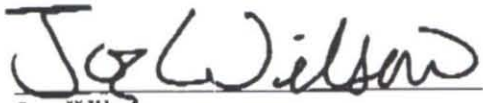
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



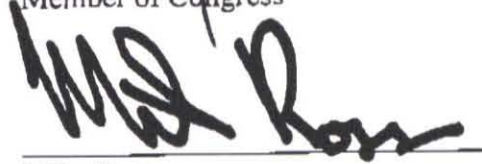
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



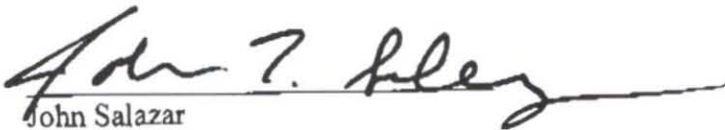
Zack T. Space
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress