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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4709

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VICE CHAIR,
NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

November 12, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

*WCB
Meyer
CenturyLink
Qwest
JB
1805*

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Attwell Baker:

I write in support of a thorough and expeditious review of the application for the proposed merger of CenturyLink and Qwest Communications that was filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on May 10, 2010. I am confident that the Commission's review will be meticulous and respectfully request that the review be completed in a timely manner.

Communications services and technologies remain a critical part of our nation's economy. As the United States recovers from the recent economic downturn, it is important to continue to foster an environment that supports innovation, and investment in new and expanded telecommunications infrastructure.

In Washington State, both CenturyLink and Qwest Communications have a proven track record of providing quality communications services and are important contributors to the vitality of the economy. Additionally, with its recent acquisition of Embarq in July 2009, CenturyLink has already demonstrated its ability to successfully integrate companies without interruptions in quality, customer service, and operations.

The CenturyLink-Qwest merger holds the potential for substantial benefits for consumers by enhancing the combined company's ability to invest in broadband infrastructure, expand its offering of innovative communications services, and increase the effectiveness and competitiveness of businesses that rely upon these companies' services.

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Further, because of the stock-for-stock nature of this transaction, achieved without any new debt or financing, this merger will provide financial stability to the newly combined entity in a time of economic uncertainty. By uniting the operations, knowledge, and financial resources of CenturyLink and Qwest, the combined successor company will be well-positioned to better serve individuals, businesses, healthcare providers, education systems, and other community sectors throughout Washington State.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your consideration of this letter. If I can provide additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-8901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Smith". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

AS:jp



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 29, 2010

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter supporting the proposed transfer of control between CenturyLink and Qwest. I value your perspective on the potential benefits of this transaction and I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Many of the issues associated with this transaction – investment in broadband infrastructure, extending broadband to rural areas, and job creation – are among my highest priorities as Chairman. The Commission takes seriously its evaluation of transfer of control applications; and you can be assured that it will consider these issues as part of its careful and deliberate review of this proposed transfer.

Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski