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June 2, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Via Electronic Filing

Re: *Applications of AT&T, Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 11-65*

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell and Clyburn:

I write to you today gravely concerned about the public's ability to trust in the integrity and actions of the Federal Communications Commission. Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker's decision to leave the FCC to become a lobbyist for Comcast, just four months after the Commission approved the company's multibillion-dollar merger with NBC, has undermined public confidence that the FCC will put the interests of the public above the interests of private companies it regulates.

The voices of the American people in the decisions of our government are increasingly crowded out by powerful corporations. Indeed, the revolving door at the FCC has called into question whether, instead of fulfilling the public mission of the agency, our policymakers in Washington are actually auditioning for roles with the companies they are supposed to be watching.

Commissioner Baker has assured the public that no legal technicalities or ethical rules were violated in her job negotiations with Comcast, and a congressional inquiry is under way to assess her claim. However, even if no rules were broken, what people see is a system where, in a short time, a supposed public servant can approve a multibillion-dollar deal, publicly criticize the FCC's review for being a time-consuming inconvenience for the company, and then announce that she's accepted a position with the new giant company. Even in the absence of a clear *quid pro quo*, this move stinks, and the American people know it.

Commissioner Baker is not the first government official to accept a paycheck from the industry she was once charged with regulating, and, sadly, she will not be the last. However, her announcement has brought the unseemliness of the revolving door into stark relief for the American people. When less than one-third of Americans trust their

government and nearly three-fourths are frustrated or angered by it, as indicated in a recent Pew poll, such conduct only affirms this cynicism and damages the credibility of even the most committed public servants.

In the wake of Commissioner Baker's decision, the Commission must now review the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. There are many concerns and questions about this deal. But the question most on the minds of Americans watching the FCC's review of the merger is whether their interests will be placed above AT&T's profits.

You have the opportunity to restore the public's confidence in the FCC. We ask that you pledge neither to seek nor accept employment from AT&T or T-Mobile directly upon leaving your present post on the Commission. We ask that you state publicly, on the record, that while this issue is before you, you will have no interests other than the agency's mandate as enshrined in the law. We ask for your assurance that, in this matter, your commitment is to the public you serve and not to some potential future employer.

We appreciate that there are philosophical differences on what role government should play in regulating business. We also recognize that there is no single resolution to this proposed merger that will satisfy everyone. But we hope that you appreciate the public's need to know that your deliberations are based not on any future employment prospects, but on whether this deal is truly in the public's interest.

We urge you to make your pledge clearly and publicly not to seek employment with the companies involved in the proposed merger, so that there can be no doubt your decision was reached for the right reasons and without undue influence.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____
Craig Aaron
President and CEO
Free Press

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