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February 18, 2010

Hon. Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

I am responding to your letter dated January 29, 2010, to our Chairman and CEO, Randall Stephenson.

AT&T shares your interest in recent events surrounding Google's business operations in China. As you know, AT&T operates one of the most extensive and sophisticated communications networks in the world, and we stand at the vanguard of efforts to protect our nation's communications capabilities from cyber-attack. As such, we treat as gravely important any cyber-attack of the magnitude reportedly suffered by Google, from whatever origin. We likewise appreciate your continued exploration of another challenge highlighted by Google's apparent decision to alter its policies for doing business in China, namely how best to advance the cause of human rights and the free flow of information in an increasingly interconnected world. Your leadership in this arena ensures that, in return for the clear benefits of globalization, our nation can still preserve and project its fundamental values. AT&T and its nearly 300,000 are committed to meeting the diverse needs of our employees, customers, suppliers, stockholders and business partners in all of the communities and nations where we do business, and we have established policies that promote human health and safety, ethical business behavior, personal privacy, and good stewardship of the environment.

AT&T has a global presence, which includes investing in subsea cable infrastructure, bilateral and roaming traffic exchange, and enterprise communications. Although AT&T does provide bilateral and roaming communications to and from China, within China AT&T is not a provider of mass market or consumer communications services, nor is it a licensed carrier that operates network infrastructure in the country. Rather, our emphasis in China is on our larger multinational business customers that are expanding their business presence in the country. We provide them advanced and reliable enterprise communications solutions, such as virtual private network capabilities. In doing so, AT&T's business in China at this time relies on commercial supply and correspondent relationships with Chinese carriers. Pursuant to cooperation agreements, these local carriers own and operate the necessary network equipment and communications infrastructure to support various business services, and they hold any necessary governmental licenses and related licensee obligations.¹

As we expressed in our prior letter to you of August 25, 2009, we are nonetheless mindful that government action can stifle freedom of expression. For this reason, we take quite

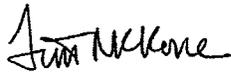
¹ AT&T has such relationships with, for example, China Telecom, China Unicom and Unisiti, the latter of which is a joint venture in which AT&T owns a 25% minority interest.

seriously our role in ensuring that government requests that could have the effect of limiting free speech or invading our customers' privacy undergo rigorous evaluation. At a minimum, when we receive a directive from a foreign government or agency to, for instance, block access to certain content or websites, we confirm that the request is authorized under local law; authenticate both that the request conforms with applicable rules and that the requesting person or institution is, indeed, authorized to submit the request; seek as much specificity as possible regarding the nature of the request; and, if the request is lawful and properly authorized, tailor our compliance with it as narrowly as possible. In the case of our operations in China, however, because our focus is on business customers, and the underlying communications infrastructure is provided by licensed Chinese carriers, to our knowledge AT&T has not been in direct receipt of any requests for assistance from Chinese law enforcement or other authorities.

Finally, AT&T did participate in the Global Network Initiative's Open House last year, and has participated in the follow-on workstream, which to date has included a series of GNI-led conference calls with industry participants and other stakeholders. We intend to continue to be a constructive participant in the workstream as it develops, and to otherwise continue our engagement with institutions determined to advance freedom of expression around the globe.

Thank you for seeking AT&T's perspectives on these critically important matters. Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Respectfully,



Cc: Randall Stephenson
Tanya Acebedo
Charlene Richardson
Rodney A. Smith