

[Key House Dem wary of members 'demagoguing' on AT&T merger](#) (The Hill – May 24, 2011)

By Sara Jerome

One of the Democrats' top antitrust watchdogs is wary about members of Congress getting too hotheaded about the AT&T merger with T-Mobile. Rep. **Mel Watt** (D-N.C.), the ranking member of the House Judiciary Competition subcommittee, said Congress has the role of educating the public but should stop short of trying to influence the review of a merger. "There's a danger for Congress to not know what purpose it serves," he said during an interview with The Hill. "To the extent people start to feel like we should be making the decision about how to apply the antitrust laws, that's overstepping congressional authority." Antitrust review will occur within the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Still, Congress will get a word in, helping shape the political debate about the merger.

**Watt**

will question the CEOs of AT&T and T-Mobile's parent company, Deutsche Telekom, in a hearing on Thursday. But that doesn't mean playing a role in whether the merger goes through,

**Watt**

emphasized. "It's not our job to be out there to be demagoguing on one side or the other," he said.