



# Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

P.O. BOX 95004 • 9516 AIRLINE HIGHWAY  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70895-9004 • PH. 225/922-6200

"Voice of Louisiana Agriculture"

October 7, 2014

Chairman, The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

The Louisiana Farm Bureau is the voice of Louisiana agriculture. We are proud of the part that agriculture has played in Louisiana's past and will continue to play in its future.

Technology will play an important role in that future, particularly for younger farmers and ranchers, and with that in mind, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the merger of AT&T and DirecTV. Most important, with the merger will come deployment of high speed Internet access to almost 170,000 customers located all across the state, many in rural areas. The novel mobile technology that underlies this service has never been deployed on such a large scale before, and it will offer broadband speeds comparable to current wireline broadband providers.

Broadband is increasingly important to the lives and businesses of farmers and ranchers. New agriculture-specific applications help farmers and ranchers decide when to plant, when to harvest, and when to sell, and broadband-enabled distance learning is becoming an important part of agricultural education. Broadband offers opportunities for healthcare, interaction with government, and education as well as entertainment. With the merger and the expanded broadband access that has been pledged, citizens in rural areas will be able to enjoy new video offerings on an equal footing with others, at a time of their choosing and on the device of their choosing, thanks to bundling of both video and mobile broadband services.

A concern that we have with the merger is we want to make sure that rural programming is continued on DirecTV and AT&T U-Verse. The RFD Channel is very important to the members of Louisiana Farm Bureau and we urge that DirecTV and AT&T U-Verse continue to carry this channel.

I want to ensure that rural Louisiana is an attractive place to live, raise a family, and grow a business. By expanding broadband to rural Louisiana, the AT&T-DirecTV merger will improve the lives of rural Louisianans and benefit our farmers and ranchers through the use of new broadband tools.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Anderson

President  
RONALD ANDERSON  
P.O. Box 25, Line Road  
Ethel, LA 70730

1st Vice-President  
JIM HARPER  
1702 Bayou Road  
Cheneyville, LA 71325

2nd Vice-President  
SCOTT WIGGERS  
322 New Zion Road  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

3rd Vice-President  
LINDA G. ZAUNBRECHER  
29405 Burnell Rd.  
Gueydan, LA 70542

Secretary-Treasurer  
MICHAEL G. MELANCON  
1003 Martha Hebert Road  
Breaux Bridge, LA 70517