

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

ALLAN ZAREMBERG
President and Chief Executive Officer



October 10, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Few issues are more fundamental to the continued growth of California's diverse economy than expansion of modern, high-speed Internet access across all parts of the state. This is certainly a vital issue for California's world-leading high-tech industry. But it is equally important to other areas of our economy, including manufacturing, biotechnology, higher education, and the motion picture industry.

For these reasons, the California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) recommends that the Federal Communications Commission approve AT&T's proposed acquisition of DirecTV. The expansion and enhancement of high-speed broadband capable of handling the state's emerging data needs, which these two companies promise as part of their merger, will help promote job growth, investment and greater opportunity for California residents and businesses.

CalChamber is the state's largest, broad-based business advocate. We have more than 13,000 member companies that employ one-fourth of California's private sector workforce, so we hear directly from our members about their business needs. High-speed Internet service is continually cited as a necessary foundation for any business' growth, productivity and success, especially in rural and underserved areas looking to attract investment and employment.

With greater access to high-speed Internet service, businesses in California will be able to improve access to healthcare, worker training and government efficiency. The benefits of this will be felt throughout our state: seniors may be able to extend the time they live independently with the help of broadband-based healthcare monitoring; workers will be better able to improve their job skills thanks to online training; and companies may be able to expand into new areas and markets that will, in turn, revive.

The improvements in education should be of particular importance to the Commission. California has been a national leader in efforts to expand affordable, high-quality instruction through the Internet. If our state's efforts are successful, the result could, as The New York Times put it in a January 15, 2013 article titled, "California to Give Web Courses a Big Trial," "open the door to teaching hundreds of thousands of California students at a lower cost via the Internet."

By approving the merger of AT&T and DirecTV, the FCC will facilitate more and faster Internet access and service in thousands of customer locations in California. This, in turn, will spur greater economic and social opportunities, upward mobility and a better quality of life.

Thank you for the Commission's consideration of CalChamber's views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Zaremborg". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Allan Zaremborg

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