



October 10, 2014

*The Voice of Vermont Business*

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission Members:

As the President of the statewide Vermont Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of our member AT&T and our statewide membership of 1,500 members, I am writing in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and DIRECTV.

Today, many Americans who live and work in rural areas do not have access to high-speed Internet service or have access through only one provider, which typically uses older cable or DSL technology. They also lack access to integrated bundles of high-speed Internet, video and voice services, forcing them to buy these services separately, often at significant expense and inconvenience.

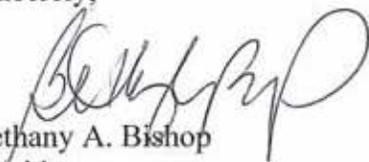
In rural Vermont, approximately 7,400 locations currently do not have broadband. Another approximately 7,000 only have one broadband provider, oftentimes a dial-up type service.

In Vermont, the combined companies will be able to provide broadband and bring high-speed Internet access to more consumers in rural Vermont, including approximately 37,000 locations in Vermont with new technology. Many of these locations are in largely underserved, rural areas, where customers will, for the first time, have access to, and a choice of providers for, high speed Internet service. In addition, this expansion of high-speed Internet service coverage will enhance access to services important to small rural businesses.

Additionally, this merger will allow the new company will have significant scale to bring down content costs which is appealing to small businesses and other consumers which we anticipate will realize a portion of those savings.

For all of the above, I urge the Federal Communciations Commission to support the proposed merger between AT&T and DIRECTV.

Sincerely,



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President

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