



October 14, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 8,000 business members, I am writing to express our support for the proposed merger of AT&T and DirecTV. Superior infrastructure is critical to a strong economy and long-term prosperity, and this includes technological infrastructure like broadband as much as it does roads, bridges, and power transmission.

Access to broadband has become a business necessity, and high-speed Internet coverage can foster economic development by providing new opportunities for innovation and expansion. According to a recent TechNet report, states that invest in and utilize broadband networks are seeing stronger economic growth, better connected communities and enhanced quality of life.

Though Ohio is already recognized as a global leader in data analytics, our state has, unfortunately, fallen behind many other states in the development of broadband infrastructure. The result is that too many Ohio businesses and citizens who live and work in rural areas do not have access to high-speed Internet service. The proposed AT&T and DirecTV merger will bring coverage for new or enhanced high-speed Internet to approximately 680,000 customer locations. Access to this fast and reliable communications network will promote job growth and investment as well as improve the quality of life for many Ohioans.

As the state's leading business advocate, our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. High-speed Internet is part of the foundation for Ohio's economic success, and the Ohio Chamber believes this merger will deliver significant benefit to businesses and consumers throughout the state. We look forward to its approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew E. Doehrel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President & CEO