



**NORTH CAROLINA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, INC.**

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October 13, 2014

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The North Carolina Farm Bureau has been actively promoting farm and rural issues since our founding in 1936. We take an active part in government relations on behalf of farmers and rural North Carolinians at both the state and federal levels. In light of our viewpoints on improving the lives of North Carolinians across our state, today we write in strong support of the merger of AT&T and DirecTV.

Most importantly, this partnership will provide over 600,000 customer locations in all parts of the state, including many in rural North Carolina, with new or enhanced access to high speed Internet service. This broadband service will provide a competitive alternative for our residents in previously underserved areas.

Rural America, and rural North Carolina, cannot be left behind in the race for technology. This merger will help equalize the gaps between rural areas and non-rural areas, providing new opportunities for people in rural North Carolina to manage their farms and other businesses through state-of-the-art broadband connections, following commodity prices and using GPS at planting and harvest times. Greater access to high-speed Internet access will help our farmers and others in rural North Carolina take agricultural extension courses or other types of distance learning with virtual classrooms, connect with health care providers, veterinarians, and government, and keep the rural part of our state a fine place to live, farm, run a business, and raise a family.

And the combination of additional video options bundled with the broadband Internet will bring rural North Carolina to an equal footing with our state's cities and more populated areas..

This merger will have positive effects for North Carolina farm families and other small towns' residents in North Carolina. I urge you to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry B. Wooten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President Larry Wooten
North Carolina Farm Bureau

*Farm Bureau and Agriculture...
We keep North Carolina growing!*