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## State of Nevada Senate

October 6, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Applications of AT&T Inc. and DIRECTV for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses & Authorizations, MB Docket No. 14-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Thank you for your attention to the proposed merger of AT&T and DIRECTV. I represent Senate District 17 in Nevada, and I strongly support the combination of these two companies. As a rancher with an interest in telecommunications, I have seen the true need for high-tech investment in our state to serve our ranching and farming industries, as well as the people who live in other parts of the state.

Many of those living in Nevada choose to live in beautiful, less populated lands and enjoy this more rural lifestyle. However, as the world changes it is imperative that we stay abreast of new technologies, particularly those that connect to the world beyond our immediate surroundings. We must do this to remain competitive in business, and to make sure we have the same opportunities—particularly healthcare and education opportunities—afforded to us as to the rest of the country.

High-speed access and expanded broadband networks have become buzzwords to so many, but the jargon should not detract from the gravity of the issue. This merger seems poised to bring broadband and increased competition to areas that deserve to be full beneficiaries of everything high-speed Internet has to offer. AT&T's proposal that will provide higher speeds and increased coverage is a positive step by communications companies willing to not only find creative ways to reach all populations, but that are using private investment dollars to do so.

We appreciate the attention to our rural areas that typically have few choices. We hope the FCC will have that same attentiveness to our need for stronger broadband infrastructure.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Settelmeyer".

Senator James Settelmeyer