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October 15, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Tennessee Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation, Inc. supports the FFA mission of making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Approval of the merger of AT&T and DirecTV will expand new types of high-speed Internet service to our students, their farm families and the rural and suburban communities in which they live.

Family farming is reliant on technology and high-speed online access. New online services are helping farmers be more productive while improving sustainability. Further, high-speed Internet access is increasingly necessary for farmers who want to pursue their education or learn about cost-saving measures such as how to diagnose and repair farm equipment.

The merger of AT&T and DirecTV will lead to the modern, high-speed Internet necessary to access emerging applications important to farmers. Of course, today's future farmers have grown up with online technologies. Email, texting and web surfing are second nature. Thus, our future generation of farmers has tremendous potential to expand their operations by taking advantage of Internet-based farming services.

The commitments to expanded and enhanced broadband deployment that AT&T has made on approval of its merger with DirecTV offers rural communities in Tennessee the potential for further deployment of the systems necessary to meet this technological challenge.

Sincerely,

*Chelsea Rose*

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