



Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

October 15, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

The Arizona Farm Bureau is pleased to endorse the proposed merger of AT&T and DirecTV. By approving this merger, the FCC will support one of the country's most important public policy goals: expanding new high-speed broadband service to millions of locations in the country that currently have little or no high speed Internet access.

To understand our motivation, the Commission must appreciate the needs of our membership. The agriculture base in Arizona is unique. Our ranchers graze livestock on vast acreages of federal and state lands where grazing is allowed as a primary use. Arizona's farmland is spread across the state and allows our farmers to supply winter vegetables otherwise unavailable in most of the country.

Just like other industries, farmers and ranchers throughout Arizona increasingly depend on access to high-speed Internet service, especially mobile broadband. Using smartphones and high-speed services, farmers can improve crop yields, reduce over-fertilization and monitor irrigation. Ranchers can monitor weather changes that may affect their herds.

These services are becoming increasingly valuable and data-intensive, which is why we believe the AT&T and DirecTV merger is important. The two companies have stated publicly that if their merger is approved, they will deploy high-speed Internet access to 200,000 customer locations across Arizona.

It is important for the Commission to appreciate that farmers and ranchers in Arizona, like those in many other states, often do not have access to the kind of modern high-speed Internet service that people in urban areas have had for years. We see the prospect of expanded broadband access stemming from the AT&T/DirecTV merger as something that directly benefits not only our member businesses but also their ability to access online education, entertainment and especially healthcare. This last point is crucial since the Census Department claims that the average age for Arizona's farmers and ranchers is 61 years old and rising.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and for the reasons listed above, please approve the AT&T/DirecTV merger.

Sincerely,

Kevin Rogers
President

325 S. Higley Rd., Suite 210, Gilbert, Arizona 85296-4770
(480) 635-3600 FAX (480) 635-3781
www.azfb.org