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APALA

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE, AFL-CIO



October 15th, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
 The Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As the nation's first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander union members and workers, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) advances worker, immigrant, and civil rights, serving as a bridge to connect Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) to the broader labor movement. We write in support and to urge the approval of the AT&T and DirectTV merger. We believe the merger will advance workers' rights and provide an economic incentive to drive the U.S. economic growth with benefits to both employees and consumers.

It is undeniable that the internet has and will continue to dramatically impact our lives. With the merger's emphasis on delivering high-speed internet to underserved areas and communities not reachable before, it can bring benefits to education, businesses, public safety, civic participation, and much more. As a major U.S. provider of high-speed broadband and wireless carrier, AT&T has the capacity to expand high-speed internet to nearly every state in the country, to bring every part of America to the digital age and provide jobs to help our workforce grow.

AT&T respects the right of its employees to make their own choice about union representation, and have collective bargaining agreements which provide rights, protections, fair treatment, good pay, and benefits to its workers. Over half of AT&T's workforce is represented by unions, with at least 110,000 workers represented by the Communications Workers of America union. Through this merger, AT&T can further its commitment to workers' rights and potentially transform labor standards to the non-management level workers of the TV/cable industry.

Given that AT&T and DirectTV primarily serve different markets, their merger presents few anti-trust concerns. Rather, the combination of high-speed broadband and video will result in a stronger competitor against locally dominant cable services. This will provide consumers with more options and drive competition and advancements in the video market. For these reasons, we support and urge for the approval of the merger.

For further discussion or questions, please don't hesitate to contact APALA Executive Director Gregory Cendana at gcendana@apalanet.org or at (202) 508-3733.

Sincerely,

Johanna Hester
 APALA National President

Gregory A. Cendana
 APALA Executive Director