



October 16, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the merger of AT&T and DIRECTV. By approving this merger, the FCC will help bring residents in the Quad Cities Area access to better, faster high-speed Internet service. This service will provide new ways for them to access benefits in education, business knowledge and worker training.

To succeed, we must overcome real challenges including an aging workforce and insufficient infrastructure. The deployment of faster Internet access in our region will help us to address both of these important issues. Faster, more accessible Internet service means workers in our area of all ages will have greater access to online training options. They will be able to learn new skills to continue their careers or perhaps start a new career. Better Internet access also helps expand telework, which can reduce demand on roadways.

The Quad Cities requires a high-quality workforce to support economic and community vitality. This part of our plan would gain significantly from the kind of broadband deployment that AT&T and DIRECTV have promised if their merger is approved. The availability of this new service would dramatically help our efforts to engage business leaders and educators in affecting high-performance K-12 education. It would also benefit post-secondary education and training with economic demand and cultivate the attraction and retention of our next generation of new talent.

Our growth plan for the next several years would benefit significantly from modern Internet access resulting from the AT&T and DIRECTV merger. Therefore, we respectfully ask the FCC to approve this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PR', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Rumler
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Chief Economic Development Officer
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