



**The
Business
Council**

HEATHER C. BRICCETTI, ESQ.
President & CEO

October 15, 2014

Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of The Business Council of New York State, Inc., I am writing today in support of the proposed AT&T/DirectTV merger.

The Business Council is New York's largest statewide employer association, representing 2,400 businesses, chambers and regional business groups across New York State. We have members of all sizes and in all sectors. About 80 percent of our members are small business, with 100 or fewer employees, while we also represent most Fortune 500 members with a significant New York presence. The manufacturing sector provides the largest share, at 25 percent of membership, but we also have members in the finance, technology, communications, trade and other sectors.

One issue all of our members share is their interest in high quality and fair priced telecommunication services, including broadband.

Therefore, we are pleased to be able to support the proposed AT&T/DirectTV merger. AT&T is one of the Council's largest and most active members, and their membership dates back 1953 and one of AT&T's early affiliates, Western Electric, then the manufacturing arm of the old American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Currently, many business and residential customers lack or have limited access to high-speed Internet service; and lack access to enhanced services such as bundled high-speed Internet, video and voice services.

Among the many positive features of the proposed merger is the commitment of the combined AT&T/DIRECTV to use fixed wireless local loop (WLL) technology to an estimated 950,000 New York residential and business customers. Many of these locations are in underserved rural areas, where customers will, for the first time, have access to, and a choice of providers for, high speed Internet service.

This commitment is a strong complement to New York State's ongoing effort to promote statewide broadband access, including an expanded state commitment

to providing broadband deployment grants just announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

AT&T has been an important member of The Business Council for decades, and with three thousand employees, multiple business location in New York, and many current telecommunications customers, it is an invaluable component of the state's economy.

As we believe this proposed merger will produce a stronger company, and will provide enhanced telecommunications services to many additional state residents and business, we are pleased to recommend the FCC's approval of the AT&T/DirecTV merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Bruma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent.