



# Walker

*City on the Bay*

City Administration

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October 14, 2014

Mr. Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir,

The speech you delivered to the Ed Tech Summit on September 29 about high-speed Internet service and its importance to education was timely and helpful, especially for those of us living far from major urban areas. Walker, Minnesota is a community of just under 1,000 people in northern Cass County. Many of the challenges we face on issues such as education, worker training and healthcare can be addressed, at least in significant part, through greater access to quality, modern-day Internet service.

This letter requests that you and the Commission approve the proposed merger of AT&T and DirecTV. If the Federal government approves this merger, the two companies have promised to bring new high-speed Internet technologies to areas across Minnesota that have great need for this service. Expanded high-speed Internet access will give these residents the kind of choice in communication services that Minnesotans elsewhere, particularly those residing in or near urban areas, enjoy, and even innovative bundles of video, wireless and broadband services that will be unique in the marketplace.

Faster and more accessible Internet service plays an extremely important role in Walker's efforts to create economic opportunity. We derive great economic benefit from being the main tourist center for the Chippewa National Forest. However tourism is seasonal and many important needs, such as access to education and quality healthcare, are year-round.

For Walker, an accelerated deployment of better and faster Internet service means putting many new benefits within reach of our residents. Seniors and those with medical conditions could be able to access new Internet-based monitoring services. Students will be able to access specialized online education and workers will be able to sharpen their skills and make themselves more marketable through the increasingly numbers of online workplace development schools.

The people of Walker have tremendous spirit and a deep-seated willingness to work hard. By approving the AT&T and DirecTV merger, the FCC will spur new high-speed service in this area. This, in turn, will help our residents access opportunities that will make our community even greater.

Thank you for considering this letter as you evaluate the AT&T-DirecTV merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Bruns", written over a printed name.

Scott D. Bruns

Mayor