

MASSACHUSETTS



*The voice of working families*

---

# MASSACHUSETTS AFL-CIO

*Today's Unions*

---

389 Main Street • Malden, Massachusetts 02148 781-324-8230 • Fax 781-324-8225 • [www.massafcio.org](http://www.massafcio.org)

PRESIDENT  
Steven A. Tolman

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
Louis A. Mandarini, Jr.

EXEC. VICE PRESIDENTS  
Edward A. Kelly • Charles Raso • Veronica Turner • Edward Collins • Jennifer Springer

---

October 15, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC. 20554

*In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and DIRECTV to Transfer Control of FCC Licenses and Other Authorizations. MB Docket No. 14-90*

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the 400,000 working families represented by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, I write to you today in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and DIRECTV. This merger stands to benefit hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts consumers, as well as the workers currently employed by each respective company.

For Massachusetts consumers, particularly those who live in rural areas, this merger will expand high-speed internet coverage to nearly 200,000 locations through the use of wireless local loop (WLL) technology. Right now, many of these rural consumers have access to only one provider that often uses older cable or DSL technology. When access to high-speed internet is available in rural areas of Massachusetts, consumers are often forced to buy the service separate from their other bundled services, costing them significantly more than customers in other areas of the state. The combined services that will be offered by AT&T/DIRECTV will give hundreds of thousands of customers in Massachusetts more competitive choices and better access to needed technologies.

As strong as the benefits of this proposed merger stand to be for customers, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO would not be taking a position on this matter were it not for the potential benefit to the employees of AT&T/DIRECTV. AT&T has established itself as one of very few large employers in the United States that respects the rights of its workers to form a union if they so choose. By expanding the positive labor-management relationship that exists at AT&T to workers currently employed by DIRECTV, we can create thousands of quality employment opportunities for U.S. workers through this merger.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Tolman  
President