



William D. McCombe
Senior Vice President, Finance & Legal

March 11, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As a major employer in California and supplier of high technology satellites to DIRECTV, SSL offers its endorsement of the proposed merger between DIRECTV and AT&T Inc. We believe the merger will strengthen DIRECTV's access to capital and its ability to invest in its satellite infrastructure. This will benefit the satellite manufacturing industry and will thereby benefit high technology employment and the broader economy of California.

SSL is the world's leading manufacturer of commercial communications satellites, providing some of the most technologically advanced satellites available to the commercial market. We employ over 3,000 people in our satellite manufacturing operations in Palo Alto, California. More than two thirds of these jobs are professional positions requiring bachelor or advanced degrees. Our operations also support thousands more jobs in our broad supplier network.

DIRECTV is a significant customer of SSL with six SSL-built satellites in its current fleet. In 2014 two of SSL's largest and most advanced direct broadcast satellites were launched into the DIRECTV fleet. These satellite programs have directly supported hundreds of jobs in our factory and many more indirectly among our suppliers, many of whom are located in California.

As part of the much larger AT&T Inc., with its market capitalization of \$170 billion, we believe DIRECTV will have greater access to capital at lower cost. It will thereby be better positioned to make significant investments in its satellite infrastructure in order to serve growing consumer demand for satellite based services. We believe that this investment will benefit DIRECTV's U.S. satellite suppliers, SSL included, and thus benefit employment in our industry. These are high technology US manufacturing jobs in an industry where the U.S. is a global leader. The satellite industry is also a major exporter.

DIRECTV purchases some of the world's most sophisticated direct broadcast satellites from SSL and others. The fact that we have a customer base of strong domestic satellite TV operators like DIRECTV has been critical to our success. This merger, in strengthening the financial base of a key customer will be important to maintaining the leadership position of SSL and other U.S. suppliers in this key segment of the satellite market. With financially strong customers, we will continue to be able to push the leading edge of satellite technology development.

We support this merger because it benefits an industry and the type of employment that keep the U.S. economy globally competitive in the 21st century.

Thank you for the Commission's consideration of this letter.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. D. McCombe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "D" that are connected to the rest of the name.

William D. McCombe