

**Comment on FCC Proceeding 14-90 AT&T-DIRECTV Consent to Transfer of Licenses**

Chairman Wheeler and FCC Members:

I am truly concerned about the merger of AT&T and DIRECTV into one entity. The consolidation of their services into one company will greatly reduce competition in the telecommunications industry relative to Internet and television subscription services. Being from and living in a rural area where access to adequate Internet speeds and other telecommunications services such as wireless are inconsistent at best, I would hope that the FCC would see the negative impact that this merger would potentially have on rural America. With all these companies “Too big to fail”, why would we want to create another monopolistic corporation in the telecommunications industry for consumers to suffer the imminent consequences. Please consider antitrust laws when evaluating this proceeding. We do not need to go further down this road to only a handful of companies having control over what consumers pay for basic services. In the event that this comment does not deter the FCC from allowing this merger to proceed, I sincerely hope that safeguards are implemented as conditions to the merger to improve access to broadband Internet in rural areas and prevent collusion of competitors in the telecommunications industry from fixing prices to ensure profits for them and financial hardships for consumers.

Sincerely,

Chris Bates, MPA