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FCC Mail Room

Edmond E. Bates, Jr.
712 Oak Avenue
Rockport, TX 78382-5904
July 14, 2014

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Additional information
Opposition to Direct TV merger into AT&T

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed is a copy of the follow-up letter I sent to the Director of the Southwest Region of the FTC stating my opposition to the merger of Direct TV, or any other communications company, into AT&T.

As previously stated, you are being provided with a copy of the material because the issue involves the billing policies and procedures used by AT&T and the lack of regulatory oversight by the Public Utilities Commission of Texas. It may be necessary for the FCC to take action to cause the billing policies and procedures to be changed.

Sincerely,



Edmond E. Bates, Jr.

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712 Oak Avenue
Rockport, TX 78382
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FCC Mail Room

Dama J. Brown, Director
Southwest Region
Federal Trade Commission
1999 Bryan St., Ste 2150
Dallas, TX 75201-6808

RE: AT&T and Direct TV merger
FTC Ref. No. 54414355

Dear Director Brown:

In a letter dated June 12, 2014, I expressed my objection to the subject merger. I subsequently received a revised final bill prepared on June 17, 2014, on which AT&T made an adjustment of \$48.07 and then calculated a credit of \$44.57. On July 3, 2014, I received a refund check, dated June 30, 2014, in that amount.

Since I initially disputed the \$48.07 amount rather than paying it, I felt I was not entitled to the refund. Therefore I called the number provided by the Texas PUC for AT&T's Office of the President and discussed the matter with a very congenial representative who then put me on hold while he contacted the collection department regarding my desire to return the refund check and pay the \$3.50 difference that I believe I owe AT&T. He instructed me to keep and use the check since AT&T's system would generate another check if I were to return the one I had received.

Therefore it appears that AT&T's billing system is treating an adjustment as if it were a payment, which lends credence to my belief that their billing procedures are designed to improve AT&T's cash flow at the expense of the consumer. Had I actually paid the \$48.07 billed in advance on the original "final bill" which was generated on May 1, 2014, I would not have received the refund for the credit shown on the "revised final bill" for two months. Had I been operating on a tight budget that delay could have been critical to my ability to acquire food, medication or other necessities.

Therefore, I continue to object to the merger of AT&T and Direct TV, whether achieved via purchase or other vehicle, until AT&T, and any others applying similar billing procedures, are required to:
not issue any bill declaring a past due amount until said due date has passed, and then
not issue a "final bill" until it has been properly constructed.

Until such procedures are implemented, I also state my opposition to any other merger that reduces competition and choice in the communications industry.

Sincerely,



Edmond E. Bates, Jr.

cc: FTC consumer response center
✓ Tom Wheeler, Chairman, FCC
Texas Attorney General
Ms. Donna L. Nelson, Chairman, Texas PUC