



September 5, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the proposed merger between AT&T and DirecTV.

The combination of these two companies would support economic development and growth in our community. It encourages investment in additional infrastructure, which is critical to our ability to attract and retain employers. Our region is in desperate need of economic growth.

The merger would also expand broadband service to consumer customers, which is really lacking in rural areas such as ours. Many areas in our county have no broadband access. While broadband is a given in cities, it is NOT here, and this would help a company that has terrific technology and expertise in broadband better serve people in our rural communities. We need expanded broadband to compete and survive – as companies, as entrepreneurs, and as students – in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Plus, AT&T and DirecTV participate in different parts of the communication spectrum. There should be no fear about creating a monopolistic situation given that this simply combines a voice and broadband firm with a video firm.

Finally, in our experience AT&T is a company that lives up to its commitments. They have invested heavily in technology infrastructure in our county. They support development and growth and they support community institutions with their technology. We are confident that their pledges will be fulfilled and will ultimately benefit the people of Southeastern Ohio.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas C. Poorman'.

Thomas C. Poorman  
President