



# UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114  
WWW.LE.UTAH.GOV

September 12, 2014



Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Federal Communications  
Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re: MB Docket No. 14-90*

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

We are pleased to provide this statement of support for the AT&T and DIRECTV merger.

This merger will provide tremendous opportunity for increased quality of living for members of the Utah Navajo Nation - people who live on a reservation that includes portions of southeastern Utah, northeastern Arizona, and northwestern New Mexico. Currently, these 300,000 people receive connectivity at speeds of 2G or less. The acquisition will allow these people to receive data speeds at potentially twice the rate that they are currently experiencing. This improvement will have a dramatic impact on their day-to-day lives.

As Utah State Senators, we serve constituencies of mostly rural families. According to data provided by AT&T, allowing this merger will dramatically improve service to members of rural communities in 48 states. Many of these families currently only have one option for service providers, and typically use older cable or DSL technologies. Almost 20 percent of these 13 million customers nationwide where AT&T's fixed wireless local loop service will become available currently have no access to terrestrial broadband services today.

Transactions like this one create synergy in service. With the synergies derived from this deal, AT&T will be enabled to offer fixed WLL to an estimated 13 million rural customers. Many of these families lack access to integrated bundles of broadband, video, and voice service and as a result must acquire these services separately – often at significant expense and inconvenience. The transaction in question will make it possible

for AT&T to expand and provide better, faster, and less costly services to members of our nation's rural communities.

The expansion of service associated with this merger will have great economic impacts on Utah and other states. Millions of people cannot currently enjoy services like Amazon, Netflix, and Hulu due to a lack of sufficient connectivity. As a direct result of this merger, millions of customers will be enabled to participate more in contributing to the economy, thereby strengthening it for everyone.

Please approve this transaction. America's consumers will enjoy improved service, improved infrastructure, and improved economic prospects.

I thank you for considering this request and I humbly urge your support.

Sincerely,

Kevin Van Tassell  
Chairman, Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, and Technology Committee  
Utah State Senate

David Hinkins  
Chairman, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Utah State Senate

Ralph Okerlund  
Majority Leader  
Utah State Senate