

As an elected official from Kansas, I'm writing to express support for the proposed AT&T/Direct TV merger. All evidence indicates the merger will result in expanded services and competition in rural areas. A large percentage of our state of 3 million people live and work in rural areas, so the merger would have a huge impact on the quality of life for those populations.

As Speaker of the Kansas House, I know there are unique circumstances that come with living in a rural area. I'm especially impressed that over 80,000 Kansans will have access to broadband internet as result of the merger, something that is currently unavailable to them.

It's also apparent that the merger would bring a host of new service options for customers. This will only result in lower prices and a wider selection of choices, which are always good for the consumer. It's obvious that AT&T/DirectTV is committed to expanding to areas where communications companies have not widely tread before, and I'm looking forward to the economic growth opportunities that will come as a result.

The proposed merger will be a huge benefit to our state and the nation as a whole. That's why I'm fully supportive of the proposal and encourage the FCC to approve it without delay.