

# Iowa State Building and Construction Trades Council

AFL-CIO

*President*  
*William G. Gerhard*

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Gene Rome*

To Whom It May Concern:

As president of the Iowa Building and Construction Trades, I have the honor of representing thousands of working families across my state. In that capacity, I would like to express my firm support for the proposed merger between AT&T and DIRECTV. Although this does not have any direct implications for the members of the Building and Construction Trades, it is an important issue for both consumers across the country and frontline workers.

The two companies currently have very little overlap between their individual services. AT&T, of course, focuses on broadband and wireless while DIRECTV is involved with satellite video. The merger will combine those services and in doing so offer consumers more options in the marketplace, lower costs, improved quality, and expanded broadband.

Moreover, AT&T has a long history of respecting collective bargaining rights and today employs thousands of unionized workers. The merger has the potential to extend those rights to thousands more who would come into the company. I believe that is a positive step for those workers and ultimately for the quality of services being provided to customers.

As with any issue, I hope you give this careful consideration. However, at the end of the day, I feel the proposed merger will bring about tremendous benefits to consumers in virtually every part of the country and working families who have struggled in recent years as the economy begins to move out of the recession. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Bill Gerhard  
President, Iowa Building and Construction Trades