

Representative Shap Smith
Speaker of the House



Office: (802) 828-2245
Fax: (802) 828-2220
E-mail: speaker@leg.state.vt.us
www.leg.state.vt.us/speaker

**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05633-5201**

September 16, 2014


Honorable Thomas Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: In the matter of applications of AT&T, Inc. and Direct TV to transfer
control of FCC licenses and other authorizations
MB Docket No. 14-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing in support of the proposed merger of AT&T and Direct TV. I support the merger for a very simple reason. Under the proposed merger, AT&T/Direct TV will expand offerings for fixed line wireless broadband service in Vermont to over 37,000 customer locations. It is my understanding that many of these locations are largely underserved, rural areas, where customers will, for the first time, have access to, and a choice of providers for, high speed internet service. It is my hope that the expansion of service will allow additional offerings to consumers who are limited in their access to current services because of the speed of the broadband in their area.

Given AT&T's representation that broadband service will be expanded in Vermont, and with the understanding that government authorities will require said expansion, I believe that the AT&T/Direct TV merger will be in the best interest of Vermonters.

Sincerely yours,

Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House