



September 16, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
455 – 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

The Minnesota AFL-CIO's mission is to improve the lives of working families and build a broad movement of workers by helping workers to join and form unions.

That is why the Minnesota AFL-CIO, and our over 300,000 members from over 1,000 affiliated union locals, join the national AFL-CIO and a number of state federations across the country in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and DIRECTV.

We do so because the merger meets the test of our mission. AT&T has the largest full-time union workforce and because AT&T respects the rights of workers to form unions, we are encouraged that the 10,000 employees of DIRECTV will be joining AT&T employees as members of the Communications Workers of America.

While our members are also consumers of the services provided by companies like AT&T, DIRECTV and their competitors in the telecommunications sector, we are always concerned about the impact of such large mergers on consumers including our members. But because AT&T and DIRECTV operate in different yet complementary businesses, competition is not eliminated. Rather, competition is enhanced because the new, merged company will be better equipped to compete with larger players in the telecommunications sector.

Please consider the benefits to workers and consumers in your ruling on this merger. It is good for America.

Thank you,

Shar Knutson, President
Minnesota AFL-CIO

cc: The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, United States Senator
The Honorable Al Franken, United States Senator

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