

**David J. Tomassoni**  
State Senator  
District 6



**Senate**  
State of Minnesota

September 16, 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission Members:

I would like to convey my support for your approval of the proposed merger of AT&T and DIRECTV; proceeding number 14-90. I believe this merger will prove to be a positive step in providing better service to all consumers, providing increased opportunity for access, speed and quality. As chair of the Minnesota Senate Committee that oversees funding for state agencies involved in utility service and economic development, I understand how important the cost, accessibility and quality of telecommunications/internet services are to our communities.

Minnesota has an Office of Broadband Development and has been recently making substantial investments in an effort to get all Minnesota communities, businesses and residents hooked up with reliable quality broadband service. I understand how important this tool is for economic development, employment, commerce, health, education and communication. As a legislator with areas of the state that do not have any or adequate broadband service, I welcome the opportunity for companies to find new and innovative ways to reach out to these areas. I believe a merger like this will provide opportunity and incentive for more innovation and better competition.

I believe the completion of this merger between AT&T and DIRECTV will result in substantial benefits for the consumers in our state. The merger would provide a new, viable competitor in the marketplace creating industry pressure on price, service quality and further innovation.

I urge your support for the approval of this merger leading to increased consumer benefits and positive economic impacts.

Sincerely,

David J. Tomassoni  
State Senator

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