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SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER

Rules and Administration,
Chair

The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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September 16, 2014

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As you consider the merger of AT&T/DIRECTV, I would like to express my support, especially for the impact it would have on the state of Iowa. Like many other rural states, Iowa has struggled to provide expanded broadband to underserved rural areas.

Too many of our citizens lack access or only have access to one provider that typically uses older cables or DSL technology. With a merger of these two companies, our state will move closer to its objective of bringing satellite and broadband communications to every corner of Iowa.

Rural Iowans have waited for broadband service for years, but obstacles such as terrain, distance and cost have prevented this from happening. The proposed merger would allow many rural Iowans to receive satellite and high-speed broadband for the first time. Additionally, the merger takes the strength of each company and provides the services and meets the needs of all consumers, no matter where they live.

Finally, the merger of AT&T/DIRECTV would improve efforts by Iowa businesses to compete in the global economy.

Thanks so much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Gronstal".

Mike Gronstal
Iowa Senate Majority Leader