

On behalf of the 20,000 members of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, I am writing in support of the proposed merger of AT&T and DIRECTTV. We believe the merger will both serve the public interest and the interest of workers who will be directly affected by the merger.

For consumers the combination of AT&T and DIRECTV will result in a stronger competitor to the dominant cable industry, providing consumers with more options, putting pressure on prices and improving service in the video market.

Moreover, a merged AT&T/DIRECTV will provide consumers with a one-stop shop for a bundled broadband/video service.

For employees it is our understanding AT&T respects the rights of its employees to make their own choice about union representation and is now the largest full-time unionized employer in the US. This matters to our members in the construction industry who know that fair competition begins with basic standards of employment for workers. Knowing a union contract is in place ensures our membership they are purchasing a product that is produced by workers who have a voice.

Given AT&T's commitment to respecting the rights of its employees and the fact that a combined AT&T/DIRECTV will result in increased competition, we believe the AT&T/DIRECTV merger is in the best interest of both workers and consumers.

Sincerely,
David Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer,
West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council.