



May 22nd, 2015

VIA ECFS

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

**Re: FCC MB Docket 14-90 AT&T and DirecTV Merger
Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County opposes merger**

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners,

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County supports universal access to open Internet to ensure local benefits of broadband media services, particularly in remote and rural areas of Mendocino County. As such, the Alliance respectfully urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to deny approval of the proposed AT&T acquisition of Direct TV because the transaction fails to meet the public interest standards, and past experience has shown that media consolidation (further) reduces competition, threatens media localism, and harms information diversity. This merger will further consolidate private ownership for essential communications infrastructure, which we believe is against the public interest. Further, the Alliance wants to ensure the protection of broadband media consumers, and baseline obligations to address local needs and community interest.

We support the conclusion of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) in their comments in this proceeding (late-filed): “The proposed AT&T-DirecTV transaction has far-reaching implications for the nation and poses a significant risk by

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threatening to leave behind at an accelerating pace 25% of the population who are on the other side of the Digital Divide. People living in low-income neighborhoods are facing a wall of poverty they cannot escape without purposeful intervention and focused attention by policymakers to get them the 21st century tools to participate in our society, including obtaining government services online, performing school or work online, and performing research on health and the critical information. We respectfully request that this commission craft tangible public interest obligation of the Applicants herein in a manner that will truly benefit those on the wrong side of the Digital Divide.”

Thank you for this consideration.

Trish Steel
Chair, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County

CC:
Congressman Huffman
Assemblymember Jim Wood
Senator McGuire
Senator Boxer
Senator Feinstein
CETF
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors