

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: Applications of AT&T Inc. and DIRECTV for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, MB Docket No. 14-90.

In this Order we approve the merger of AT&T and DIRECTV. This decision is based on extended review and careful consideration of the consequences of combining a mix of interests in broadband, wireless, and video services. On balance, we find that this transaction, as conditioned, serves the public interest, as required under law.

Communications markets are changing fast—and the future of watching is bound to look different from the past. Channel packages with limited choices are giving way to a new world where consumers watch what they want, when they want it, on any screen handy. As a result, broadband is becoming an essential tool for the distribution of video content. Consequently, this transaction is conditioned on the deployment of fiber to the premises to 12.5 million new customer locations. This deployment will result in more modern infrastructure that supports a range of activities—including online video. This development is not just good for consumers, it also addresses disincentives for deployment that could arise from this transaction. Even better, these facilities will be made available to schools and libraries in the deployment footprint. In addition, this transaction is conditioned on non-discriminatory usage-based practices that will help ensure that the online marketplace for video has fair opportunity to grow. Finally, though not the subject of any conditions in this transaction, the issue of independent programming and the complexities of securing access on traditional video distribution platforms has come up repeatedly in the record in this proceeding. I think this issue is ripe for examination, and hope that the Commission can find another forum for discussion of this important topic.