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FCC Approves AT&T DirecTV Merger

MINNEAPOLIS - July 28, 2015 - The Federal Communications Commission issued its Order today approving the AT&T DirecTV merger rejecting arguments made by the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) and its allies about harmful effects of the deal (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-order-approving-att-directv-transaction>).

The Commission acknowledged the unique value of PEG (Public, Education and Government) Access channels and their need to be protected to ensure localism in the video marketplace, but instead chose to focus on broadband conditions for the deal.

While ACM appreciates the attention the FCC has paid to preventing online discrimination against content in the AT&T DirecTV merger proceedings, we have to call out the fact that it seems to tolerate if not encourage discrimination against community-based and civic video content," explained Mike Wassenaar, ACM/F-ACM President.

Since 2009, the Commission has been sitting on a petition calling for AT&T to stop its discriminatory practices which prevent video consumers from finding and recording PEG (Public, Education and Government) content on its UVerse platform.

"It's profoundly disappointing that an agency devoted to fairness and consumer rights allows such discrimination to continue for millions of video customers throughout the United States while it champions equal treatment of content in the broadband marketplace," said Wassenaar.

About the Alliance for Community Media & Foundation for the Alliance for Community Media:

Founded in 1979, the Alliance for Community Media is a national, non-profit membership organization committed to ensuring access to electronic media for all people. The Alliance for Community Media's mission is to educate, advocate and be the leading policy resource for more than 3,000 Public, Education and Government (PEG) cable channels nationwide. The Foundation for the Alliance for Community is the philanthropic arm of the organization. For more information visit www.allcommunitymedia.org.

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