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See the following email message to each FCC Commissioner that received an automated reply only from Commissioner Clyburn. All other Commissioners totally ignored my message that was personally addressed to each. AT&T professes to be in the wireline telecom business but refused to restore our POTS service after trying out AT&T's terrible U-Verse VoIP system for less than 30 days. If this merger is approved, AT&T will only flex their muscles by bullying of the American public more and more in the future. Customers will have no recourse, and the FCC does not consider complaints or reasonable requests from Americans. Instead, the big money of huge telecom firms has proven to be the only rule, and will continue due to intransigent FCC positions. My claims were already proven correct by recent merger plans of Comcast and TWC.

Dear Commissioner:

I realize the poor likelihood that anyone with authority will ever read or consider points in this message, even though you are supposed to abide by our American democratic process. All Americans are also aware that a huge salary awaits you in the public sector after you leave the FCC; nevertheless, it is important that I express my opinion that follows.

I strongly oppose the merger of ATT (SBC) and DirecTV into an even bigger monopolistic enterprise that can and will eventually exert huge power over content providers, boost prices, and eventually eliminate some existing customer services and choices. Allowing this merger is strongly against the public interest that the FCC is required to follow.

ATT (SBC)'s takeover of BellSouth in 2006 left their customers much worse off and has virtually eliminated consumer choices between telecom voice, data, and video services; and video and audio content where I live. I know long-time BellSouth and former Southern Bell employees who lost their jobs as a result of this merger. ATT's new proposal to merge the few remaining providers of telecom services and content is an outrageous proposition that must be denied.

As you know, ATT's BellSouth (regional Bell holding company for the Southern Bell Telephone) is the incumbent local carrier (ILEC) throughout most of the southern United States. I participated on five FCC Industry Advisory Committees on DBS prior to 1984, and have been a DirecTV customer for nearly 20 years. Over year ago I accepted ATT's invitation to try their U-verse triple play. I cancelled prior to 30 days, in accordance with contract terms.

ATT refused to restore our same POTS voice service that existed before trying U-verse. The eventual result is that ATT stole our original phone number 770-642-2289 (in original 404 area code) that was installed in 1985! ATT claimed they are no longer required to offer POTS service to 'new' customers. Isn't POTS service the fundamental reason that ATT is the ILEC? This is a good example of ATT bullying long-time customers in an attempt to get what they want.

ATT also tried hard, but was unsuccessful at delaying our U-verse cancellation in order to reap a huge potential cancellation fee after the deadline. As the FCC was unwilling to consider such complaints, my letters to Georgia's Governor Deal finally forced ATT to comply and issue a refund. But we lost our home phone line and number we had for 28 years.

Some or all of DirecTV's local installation contractors unlawfully conduct business in their respective jurisdictions. No employee of DirecTV's primary contractor in Georgia holds a low-voltage contractor license that is required by state law. My relocated DirecTV antenna 'upgrade' now loses signal frequently, though the original dish I installed always worked perfectly for over a decade. As telecom firms (especially ILECs) enjoy the special enjoy special anti-competitive privileges for the sole right-of-way and business opportunities in their respective jurisdictions, why doesn't the FCC require these firms and their contractors to obey all laws?

As a direct result of the FCC's decision to break up of the original American

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Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), competition has increased dramatically. However, all of the incredible American inventions and patents of Bell Laboratories, such as the transistor, integrated circuit, laser, and other modern inventions are now owned by Alcatel Lucent in France. The FCC should be ashamed! But if the FCC's charter remains to foster competition and avoid monopolistic and bullying behavior, allowing this new merger is surely against the public interest.

A clear, obvious progression is that ATT eventually seeks to consolidate ground-based and satellite services and content into a single monopoly, forcing all customers to comply or look elsewhere. (Where?)

The primary question for the FCC to consider is whether ATT's greedy proposal is in the public interest. Such consolidation, as well as that of merging with other wireless carriers, will surely be proposed and is likely to occur over time. But all carriers should be required to obey the laws, get their house in order, and treat customers fairly and with respect before any merger proposals are seriously considered.

I will happily testify under oath in Washington if desired, as your decision is important to America's future.

Robert W. Stong PE, LEED AP BD+C