AT&T and Verizon have a vested interest in letting robocalls continue. This is because those companies own many of the trunk lines that carry the telecom traffic. The more robocalls there are, the more money AT&T and Verizon get paid.

For evidence:

(1) Verizon refuses to let its landline customers use Nomorobo.

(2) Verizon has stopped letting new customers use its "Call Block" service. (This service let customers create phone number block lists.) Verizon's announcement is here:
http://www.verizon.com/support/residential/phone/homephone/calling+features/call+block/call+block.htm

When I called Verizon to ask "Why?", I was told that the technology no longer exists! This is preposterous. Technology does not move backwards. Call Block continues to exist for old customers, so Verizon obviously knows how to implement this service.

There are two reasons for Verizon's refusal to help landline customers block calls:

(a) Verizon's FIOS service provides call blocking, and Verizon wants to motivate customers to buy FIOS. FIOS gives Verizon a much higher profit than does landline service.

(b) In cities where FIOS does not exist, Verizon can make more money from the robocalls that (indirectly) give Verizon a profit. Verizon owns many of the underlying trunk lines that handle the robocalls.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FCC:

(1) Stop asking the telecom companies to voluntarily cooperate with blocking robocalls. This voluntary cooperation will never happen, because robocalling is a profit-maker for the those companies.

(2) The FCC should insist that all telecom companies immediately give their customers the right to create "Call Block" blacklists. The technology to do this is already there, so the FCC should ignore all telecom claims that they "do not know how" to do this. Telecom companies that fail to meet this deadline should be required to pay the FCC heavy punishment fees.

(3) The FCC should also insist that all telecom companies automate the blocking of robocalls. Most of the technology to do this already exists. The telecom companies know when thousands of calls emanate from the same phone number during the same short period of time. Automating this information should be a relatively trivial task. The FCC should set a deadline for completing this automation, and then impose heavy fees on all telecom companies that fail to meet the deadline.