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**TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVOCACY PROJECT SAYS TO FCC: DENY  
AT&T AND MEDIAONE MERGER OR MANDATE NONDISCRIMINATORY  
PRACTICES AS CONDITION OF LICENSE TRANSFER**

February 4, 2000 (Washington, D.C.) – The Telecommunications Advocacy Project (TAP) today participated in a public forum held by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) with other interested parties including AT&T and GTE. TAP, a vocal critic of the merger, because of MediaOne's pattern of discriminatory practices in the deployment of its services, urged the FCC to go further by replacing the proposed public forum with public hearings.

TAP requests public hearings to address redlining in geographic areas populated by ethnic or low-income residents in areas served by MediaOne. Thomas Hart, counsel for TAP of Shook, Hardy & Bacon said, "Such hearings would ensure full public awareness and debate on such a critical issue."

In order to complete the merger, the transfer of licenses from AT&T to MediaOne must be approved in cities within their joint service areas. In Richmond, Virginia the transfer of licenses was approved under numerous conditions. One such condition proposed by TAP included a prohibition of discriminatory deployment of broadband facilities. TAP encourages the FCC to impose even more stringent conditions than those approved in Richmond or deny the merger in its entirety.

Khalil Munir, Executive Director of TAP, said, "It is ironic that minority communities have the highest cable penetration rate and watch television more than any other population, yet are frequently the last to receive broadband telecommunication facilities via cable systems. This is an industry-wide problem that has been brought to light most clearly through the proposed AT&T acquisition of MediaOne."

On August 23, 1999 TAP filed a Petition with the FCC against the proposed acquisition of MediaOne, Inc. by the AT&T Corporation. "In our petition, we allege redlining has occurred in communities served by MediaOne. Based on information available, data and research, and conversations with individuals and organizations, we have concluded that a disturbing pattern has emerged," Munir said. The filing was based on MediaOne's history of redlining certain areas during deployment of services, and the potential that the merger, if approved, could seriously harm competition in various segments of the telecommunication and video programming industries.

"TAP believes that consistent with the Telecom Act, protections against redlining and discrimination must be enforced. In the case of this pending merger, it is crucial that the public's interest in the merger be examined thoroughly," Munir said.

*TAP is an advocacy organization dedicated to increasing opportunities for minorities, women, and small businesses in the telecommunications industry.*