

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
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April 18, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
c/o Natek, Inc., Inc.
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Re: WC Docket No. 05-65; SBC Communications Inc. and AT&T Corp. Applications
for Approval of Transfer of Control.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

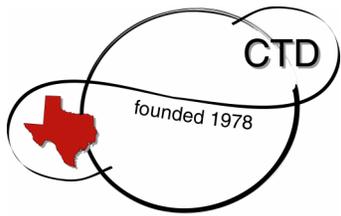
Founded in 1978 by people with disabilities, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is non-profit statewide cross disability advocacy organization. CTD has long had an interest in the powerful influence of telecommunications on the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of society.

Of all demographic groups, we believe that people with disabilities have the strongest upside from technology. Whether it be a person with a physical disability such as dexterity or mobility impairment, a sensory disability such as vision or hearing impairment, or a cognitive disability through a learning disability or mental retardation; technology can even the playing field. Employment opportunities, education and civic and social involvement are all directly improved by improved technology. For many older Americans with age-related disabilities, their independence and ability to stay in their own homes is directly tied to accessible telecommunications.

We support public policy that encourages the ramping up of technology investment. In particular, our citizens with disabilities in rural areas and small communities have not realized the promise of high speed broadband. Technologies like voice over internet protocol need to be widespread and available at reasonable cost. For these public interest and economic development reasons, CTD writes to support the FCC rapid approval of the SBC and AT&T merger.

For A Barrier Free Society,

CTD is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations working together to eliminate barriers to equal and full participation in life. CTD is funded in part by the Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities, members and contributors.



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Dennis Borel, Executive Director

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