



George Landrith  
President

## FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM

P.O. BOX 69 • OAKTON, VIRGINIA 22124  
(703) 246-0110 • (888) 8-RIGHTS • Fax (703) 246-0129 • [www.ff.org](http://www.ff.org)

*U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop (ret.)  
Chairman*

April 25, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 20002

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Frontiers of Freedom is a 501(c)(4) public policy organization that has more than 52,000 members in all 50 states. Our membership is disproportionately from America's rural areas and we have traditionally had a great interest in supporting public policy that increases competition and encourages the introduction of new technology, which are particularly important to rural America. For this reason, we strongly support the SBC and AT&T merger.

Below is a list of four of the most important reasons we support the merger.

First, a combined SBC and AT&T will be able to bring greater innovation and investment to telecommunications services. While this will help everyone across the nation, it will be particularly helpful to rural areas, which have lagged behind in investment and technological innovation.

Second, SBC and AT&T have complimenting strengths – AT&T in the global marketplace and SBC in the consumer and small business arena. This will make the new company better able to serve the public. As a result of combining these strengths, resources and networks, the new company will bring current advances in communications technology to customers who otherwise might have to wait many years. Additionally, the new company will be able to speed the development and implementation of new technologies. By accelerating the introduction of new products, services and technologies to the marketplace, consumers will be greatly benefited.

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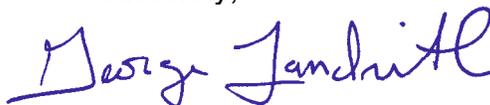
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Third, the new company will have the financial assets, the infrastructure, the technological expertise, and the tradition to ensure that the most advanced telecommunications services are provided to customers at the lowest possible prices. This is particularly important to rural America – where too often they have lagged in telecommunications technology and paid higher than average prices. We live in an information age and access to reliable, fast, and economically priced information is key to our economy.

Fourth, fears that this merger will reduce contributions into the Universal Service Fund are misplaced. Contributions are determined by the amount of revenue generated from specific communications services – not by the number of companies providing services. Our analysis shows that the merger will not impact the revenue to the Universal Service Fund.

Thus, we strongly support the proposed merger between SBC and AT&T as a means to provide better services to consumers by strengthening telecommunications technology, improving competition, and ensuring the lowest possible prices for the highest quality services.

Sincerely,



George C. Landrith