

April 25, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capital Heights, MD 20002

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As the merger of AT&T and SBC is drawing nearer to resolution, I am writing to state my support for this action. As the Executive Director of The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C and a former Michigan State Representative and Vice Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, I know how this combination of telecommunication giants will favor competition and, at the same time, benefit the marketplace.

In many cases, seniors are living on a fixed income and require affordable telephone services to stay connected. The merger of these two telecom leaders should result in greater efficiencies and, in turn, offer lower rates and advanced services for consumers, including seniors throughout Michigan.

It is clearly my hope that approval by the Federal Communications Commission will occur smoothly and quickly. The combination of SBC and AT&T is a real opportunity to make communications more efficient, more economical, and just plain simpler, not only for senior citizens but everyone. In addition, I believe that this merger will favorably impact the local economy and therefore improve the tax base, favorably impacting the funding source for which many of our senior citizen programs are drawn.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to less expensive phone bills as a result of this action.

Sincerely,

Bob Brown
The Senior Alliance
Executive Director

