



Joseph P. Mettner Lake Consulting

Regulatory, Arbitration & Government Affairs Specialists • Joseph P. Mettner, Principal

April 25, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
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:

This letter is offered in support of the proposed transfer of licenses associated with the proposed merger of SBC Communications and AT&T, currently before the Commission for approval in the above captioned matter.

As a former member and chair of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, I have reviewed many proposed mergers and corporate asset transfers. Few have presented the synergies, opportunities and strengths presented by the proposed combination of SBC Communications and AT&T. The combination of the successful business strategies and offerings which SBC has developed in the residential and small business telecommunications markets, and the consistent skill with which AT&T has served the end to end needs of large business and enterprise customer sectors will be of great value to customers in the U.S. and abroad.

In reviewing the proposed merger, the Commission should also give due consideration to the development of telecommunications markets of all varieties and services since the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Nearly a decade of experience with evolving markets and competition has resulted in robust local exchange and long distance competition, as well as steady and emerging competition from inter-modal telecommunications service providers. As seen from the proper perspective, the so-called vertical integration of SBC and AT&T at this stage in competitive evolution poses no real threats of horizontal market power in the sectors served by both entities. In the fullness of time, such combinations will no doubt prove necessary to attract and maintain the large investments required to support and maintain the world class service which both companies have provided, and which customers and shareholders expect.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly urge your approval of the proposed merger, and urge your prompt consideration of the proposal as submitted.

Sincerely,



Joseph Mettner