

April 25, 2005

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

Dear Marlene H. Dortch:

As an organization dedicated to enhancing the educational opportunities of Latino students, we have identified this merger as an important step in the process of increasing the connectivity of Hispanic communities worldwide. Through new technologies such as telephony and voice-over-internet, the SBC-AT&T Merger promises to strengthen the ties that connect our communities to their native countries.

More importantly, we can now expect greater access to educational resources for people living in distant communities, where once we could only imagine it. Over the last ten years, institutions of higher learning in the United States and abroad have embraced the concept of distance learning, where students attend classes through online portals. What may have then started as a trend in educational approaches has become a mainstay of higher education limited only by the technological barriers inherent within the industry. We believe that the standardization of communication protocols will help to expand and promote these distance learning programs. So that we may allow ourselves to speak of global classrooms where students living in Central America can enroll and attend American institutions of higher learning through telephony and virtual classrooms. Or American students can attend a seminar by a renowned poet in Argentina. In our vision, public libraries around the world could become global communication centers where the poorest amongst us can earn an education.

Therefore, we hold the position that the opportunity for technological standardization that the merger promises to bring forth and the stability it presents for the technology industry are only the tip of the iceberg. Most significantly, the greatest benefit stands to be felt by those currently existing within the 'technology-gap' that separates the First and Third worlds.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Deliz
President & Executive Director

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