

The Comments in favor of this merger filed by the Alliance for Public Technology could not have been more supportive had they been filed by Verizon itself. It thus seems appropriate to note that APT is not, as it claims, a legitimate public interest group. It is simply an "astroturf" front for Verizon and other clients of Issue Dynamics Inc., a public relations firm retained by Verizon. Sylvia Rosenthal, APT's Executive Director, is a Senior Vice President of IDI.

While IDI's staff has not demonstrated the personal peccadillos of, say, one James Dale Guckert, another recently-exposed front man, APT's softball questioning of Verizon's plans marks its true motivation. It is simply a paid front, and its comments should be treated as Verizon's, not as those of a public interest organization.