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Cincinnati, OH 45240  
May 24, 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Docket No. 06-74

I am writing in reference to the AT&T/BellSouth merger, currently being reviewed by the commission. . This merger in effect completes the process of putting the majority of the old Bell/AT&T system back together. Allowing the largest telecommunications company in the United States (AT&T) to grow even larger does not serve the public interest.

This concentration of media power will result in less competition, higher prices, and fewer independent media voices.

The FCC should block this transaction or impose strict conditions to protect free speech and competition under its "public interest standard." However, If the FCC chooses to allow this merger, it should at a minimum require the following conditions:

- That subscribers be able to choose from competitive Internet Service Providers
- That "IPTV" will be treated as a cable service for the purposes of local franchising, Telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are actively trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and control altogether at the state and federal levels.
- That these companies cannot discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service will be treated the same.

In conclusion, I ask the FCC to block the merger of AT&T and Bell South, or impose strict conditions like those above. However, even with these public interest conditions, this merger will clearly lead to less competition, higher prices, and fewer independent media voices.

Sincerely



Chip Bergquist