



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ERNIE FLETCHER
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October 18, 2006

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Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to share my concern that any further delay in FCC approval of the proposed combination of AT&T and BellSouth will harm the citizens and economic well-being of this state. After a careful review, the Kentucky Public Service Commission unanimously approved this combination on July 25, 2006. Our commission concluded that the combination would yield significant benefits and would be in the public interest.

The two companies have been clear that together they can provide a broad range of consumer and economic benefits that BellSouth cannot provide on its own. Some of the most important of these are speeding BellSouth's entry into providing video services to consumers, creating a larger base for research and development that will provide innovative services for consumers and businesses and improving service to governmental customers. Finally, the companies have committed to maintain the strong level of support for communities and philanthropy that has made BellSouth such a valuable corporate citizen in our state.

I respectfully urge you to complete your review of this transaction as quickly as possible. Delay does not serve the best interests of our citizens or the need for our economy to move forward.

Sincerely,



Ernie Fletcher

c: Marlene Dortch
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