



# Trident Urban League, Inc.

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

Dear Commissioner

I am writing you as the President/CEO of The Trident Urban League in Charleston, S.C. to ask for your quick approval of the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. This merger combines two of America's most respected companies, companies with complementary strengths and a long history of philanthropic and volunteer support to African-American and other minority communities.

African-American and other minority individuals and businesses are an important and fast growing segment of South Carolina's economy. They are increasingly dependent upon advanced broadband technologies to grow their businesses, educate their children and enhance the quality of their lives. Research shows that businesses that have access to these technologies are better positioned to compete in the global market place.

This merger will offer greater availability of broadband services to African-Americans and the minority community. In addition, it promises to bring *affordable* and *universal* broadband access to citizens especially those in low income and rural areas who need it the most.

It is my understanding that as conditions of the approval of the merger, AT&T/BellSouth have committed to offer customers affordable broadband service with a speed of up to 768 kbps at a monthly rate of \$10 and to make broadband Internet access available to *all* residential units in the companies

*Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.*

I urge the Commission to quickly approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth so that African-American and other minority businesses and consumers can soon benefit from the promise of affordable and widely available broadband technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Otha Meadows  
President/ CEO