

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

RE: WC Docket No. 06-74, Support for AT&T BellSouth Merger

Dear Commissioners:

As an economic development professional in Hartselle, Alabama, I am writing to urge swift approval of the BellSouth/AT&T merger. This merger will address one of the most critical needs required of any community seeking to grow its economy and new jobs – ubiquitous broadband Internet access. It is a key element in not just building our infrastructure but also our workforce of the present and future.

The proposed AT&T/BellSouth merger could be the catalyst for dynamic economic change in our rural communities. As a proposed condition of the merger, AT&T and BellSouth have committed to deliver *affordable* and *universal* access to broadband, including:

- ☑ A new residential broadband offering set at \$10 per month, affording many rural communities a viable alternative to dial access;
- ☑ A pledge to provide broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth service area, providing economic developers a necessary tool to recruit new economic development prospects to our rural communities.

The merger of these great American companies will significantly enhance the economic viability of the communities we serve. I ask you to approve the AT&T / BellSouth merger without further delay.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Hines
President
Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce
110 Railroad Street, P.O. Box 817
Hartselle, AL. 35640