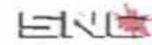




Leapstone



October 24, 2006

Re: **WC Docket No. 06-74**
(Application of AT&T and BellSouth for
Merger Authority)

Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On June 20, 2006, 24 telecom manufacturing companies, including us, filed joint comments in this proceeding urging that the Commission reject proposals to mandate more stringent, or longer lasting, network neutrality requirements on AT&T and BellSouth than those that already apply.¹ Most of the rest of the high tech manufacturing industry also is on record opposing network neutrality regulation as the enclosed recent letter to the U.S. Senate co-signed by 101 manufacturing companies makes clear. The manufacturing industry overwhelmingly opposes network neutrality regulation because it could unnecessarily slow the pace of technological innovation to the detriment of our industry - and of consumers as well. Numerous studies document that innovation could suffer under a regime of network neutrality regulation, and our June 20 comments cited and quoted from several of those studies. We believe it is significant that no one - not even those urging the Commission to condition approval of this merger on compliance with more stringent or longer lasting network neutrality regulation than what already exists - has disputed the evidence in the record of this proceeding showing that such regulation could threaten innovation.

Although we strongly oppose the imposition of network neutrality regulation in this proceeding, we do not oppose your announced plan to open a notice of inquiry to investigate the benefits and risks of imposing such regulation to all network owners at some time in the future. We are confident that the comments submitted in that proceeding will demonstrate clearly that any speculative benefits of such regulation would be far outweighed by the demonstrable harm to innovation that is likely to result.

Sincerely,

Brad E. Herr, Pres.
AC Data Systems, Inc.
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¹ "Reply Comments of Ad Hoc Telecom Manufacturer Coalition" (WC Dkt. No. 06-74, filed June 20, 2006).

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cc: Commissioners Cops, Adelstein, and Tate (w/enclosure)