SPARTANBURG
Housing Authority
Box 2828 201 Caulder Avenue Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306-2828

October 24, 2006

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

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. As the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Spartanburg, I am aware of the merger's progress and the developments of the past few days. It is clear to me that this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability are especially beneficial to our tenants. As you know, many of these people are living on the lower end of the socio-economic scale. Any change that can enhance their economic prosperity is welcome. Access to broadband would be a great benefit to them. Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering truly affordable and ubiquitous service.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free modem for upgrading to DSL service. I also understand the company has offered to make available a $10 monthly residential broadband offering as well as deliver broadband capability to *all* residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers. Please contact me at 864.598.6010 if I can provide any additional information to assist in your consideration of the request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Johnson
Executive Director

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary