

06-74

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 23 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

October 19, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to share my concern that any further delay in FCC approval of the proposed merger of AT&T and BellSouth will harm the citizens and economic well-being of Mississippi.

After completing a full review of the facts in connection with this merger, which included taking evidence and sworn testimony of witnesses at an evidentiary hearing, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (PSC) unanimously approved the merger between AT&T and BellSouth on July 25, 2006. The Mississippi PSC after thoroughly considering each condition requested by some parties during the merger review proceeding, specifically stated that "the record does not establish any public-interest harms that will result from the merger, and that no conditions should be imposed upon this Commission's approval of the Joint Application [for Approval of Merger]."

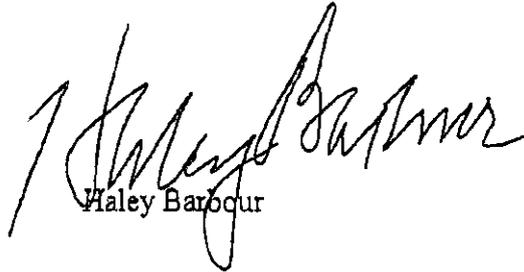
The two companies have been clear that together they can provide a broad range of consumer and economic benefits that BellSouth cannot provide on its own. Some of the most important of these are speeding BellSouth's entry into providing video services to consumers, creating a larger base for research and development that will provide innovative services for consumers and businesses and improving service to governmental customers. In addition, the value of combining the disaster planning and response capabilities of these two companies cannot be overestimated for the citizens and businesses of Mississippi. 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 Mississippi.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Chairman Kevin Martin
October 19, 2006
Page 2

I 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.

Respectfully submitted,

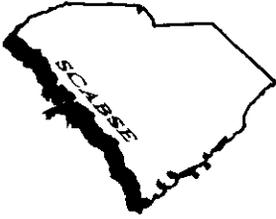


Haley Barbour

cc: Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Marlene Dortch – FCC Secretary

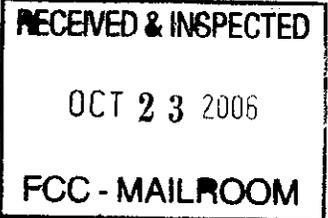
South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators

PO Box 11737 ♦ Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 253-6393 (O) ♦ (803) 253-6394 (FAX)
E-mail address: www.scabse.com



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

October 20, 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

President
Mr. Al Butler
121 Westpark Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 798-8380

President-Elect
Ms. Bertha M. Timmons
1260 Warwick Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 481-0244

Recording Secretary
Dr. Johnelle L. Sherald
418-F Third Loop Road
Florence, SC 29505
(843) 413-6370

Corresponding Secretary
Ms. Belinda Johnson
PO Box 129
Cordova, SC 29039
(803) 531-7646

Treasurer
Mr. Walter Good
1518 Sage Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30064
(678) 354-1105

Historian/Parliamentarian
Ms. Francina Shack
1701 Westchester Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 731-8950

Executive Director
Mr. John W. Robinson
5414 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 754-6377

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Ida Tyler
1616 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 231-7459

Immediate Past President
Dr. Teresa L. Pope
1311 Huntcliff Trace
Aiken, SC 29803
(803) 643-3723

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

Dear Commissioners:

The merger of AT&T and BellSouth will deliver new and innovative broadband technologies to improve South Carolina's, and our nation's educational capabilities. Therefore, I urge you to approve the merger promptly.

From distance learning to cutting-edge, in-classroom tools, our students and educators are already learning how technology can open new doors. Yet, we have barely begun to scratch the surface of the innovations in education that communications technology can make available to us. For this reason, the FCC should approve the merger of these two great American communications companies as quickly as possible.

We were pleased to learn recently that AT&T and BellSouth have proposed post-merger commitments, including a promise to bring *affordable* and *universal* broadband coverage to South Carolina's parents and students. Specifically, AT&T and BellSouth have offered:

- A \$10 monthly residential broadband Internet service offering
- A pledge to make available broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth footprint, including rural America and lower income housing units.

This broadband commitment will greatly benefit our educational system by:

- Speeding the deployment of exciting new broadband-based technologies and other promising innovations to our nation's schools and libraries and to students' homes.

041

South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators

PO Box 11737 ♦ Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 253-6393 (O) ♦ (803) 253-6394 (FAX)
E-mail address: www.scabse.com



President

Mr. Al Butler
121 Westpark Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 798-8380

President-Elect

Ms. Bertha M. Timmons
1260 Warwick Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 481-0244

Recording Secretary

Dr. Johnelle L. Sherald
418-F Third Loop Road
Florence, SC 29505
(843) 413-6370

Corresponding Secretary

Ms. Belinda Johnson
PO Box 129
Cordova, SC 29039
(803) 531-7646

Treasurer

Mr. Walter Good
1518 Sage Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30064
(678) 354-1105

Historian/Parliamentarian

Ms. Francina Shack
1701 Westchester Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 731-8950

Executive Director

Mr. John W. Robinson
5414 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 754-6377

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Ida Tyler
1616 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 231-7459

Immediate Past President

Dr. Teresa L. Pope
1311 Huntcliff Trace
Aiken, SC 29803
(803) 643-3723

- Providing new economic growth and jobs for our young people.
- Enhancing *distance learning* capabilities, such as offering students greater access to advanced placement and other classes, providing new educational tools for students and others with disabilities, and providing new cost-effective learning tools that will enhance America's global competitiveness.

Given the positive impact these commitments will bring to our educational system and young people, I urge you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

John Robinson

Executive Director – South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary