

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 President of Junior Achievement of Eastern North Carolina, Inc. I have been carefully following the merger's progress and particularly 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 Junior Achievement. Access to broadband is of great concern to my organization and the participation of children in future Junior Achievement programs. As programs evolve to reach not only all children in school, but also allow children in Rural America to participate, it is crucial that internet access and high speed internet access be available. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Brauer  
President  
Junior Achievement of Eastern North Carolina, Inc.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary