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October 26, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
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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, I am writing to urge expeditious approval of the BellSouth / AT&T merger. I know the factors, from infrastructure to workforce, that set communities apart and poise them for economic growth. 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.

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

The merger of these companies could significantly enhance the economic viability of the communities we serve. I ask you to approve the merger without further delay.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Pelton
President

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary