



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 CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Deep South Council, 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 – especially in rural areas.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability are especially beneficial to the Girl Scouts in south Alabama. Since we have begun focusing more of our efforts on serving girls in rural areas, access to broadband is of great concern to my membership. We now deliver our training sessions over the internet. Our girls use the internet to accomplish projects and share information with other Girl Scouts. 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 upgrade to DSL, including a free modem, for a limited time after the merger closing. I also understand the company has offered to reduce the price of residential broadband DSL to \$10 per month and to deliver broadband 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. While our tried and true methods of building membership in underserved areas are still working, more access to high-speed broadband will speed and enrich the process.

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,

**Paula Brewster**

Chief Executive Officer  
Girl Scouts of the Deep South Council

