



October 27, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. BellSouth has been a wonderful partner of United Way of the Midlands, and we expect that even more can be done for our community and the clients we serve through over 80 partner agencies once this merger is complete.

As you may know, United Ways across the country serve individuals and families with various educational, health and social needs. AT&T's commitment to greater broadband affordability and availability will benefit many of the clients that are served through literacy, jobs training, early childhood development and after-school programs supported by United Way of the Midlands. This will enable our community to respond to the technology gap impacting disadvantaged individuals and families.

Promotions that AT&T has proposed to the Commission will promote greater access to the resources of the Internet for families of all economic means. We expect this merger will offer new opportunities for Internet access to families with modest means providing more competitive rates and greater coverage.

I encourage the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth.

Sincerely,

J. Mac Bennett
President and CEO