October 26, 2006

BY ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: AT&T Inc. and BellSouth Corporation Applications for Approval of Transfer of Control, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 23, 2006, eight Republican Senators wrote to Chairman Martin, urging that the Commission approve the merger of AT&T Inc. and BellSouth Corporation on November 3, 2006. On October 24, 2006, 17 Democratic Members of the House of Representatives representing constituents throughout BellSouth’s nine-state region wrote to all five Commissioners, voicing support for and seeking the Commission’s expeditious approval of the merger.

AT&T Inc. hereby submits copies of these letters for inclusion in the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Scott Feira
Counsel for AT&T Inc.

Attachments

cc: Daniel Gonzalez
    Michelle Carey
    Jessica Rosenworcel
    Scott Deutchman
    Scott Bergmann
    Ian Dillner
    Thomas Navin
    Nicholas Alexander
    William Dever
    Donald K. Stockdale, Jr.
October 23, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

We write to echo the concerns of Chairman Stevens and Chairman Barton about the Commission’s failure to act last week on the application for the proposed merger between BellSouth and AT&T.

An application for transfer of control was filed on March 31, 2006, and the Commission has now had nearly six months to review the record of comments from interested parties regarding the proposed merger. On October 11, 2006, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice approved this proposal unconditionally after conducting a thorough investigation of this application. Further, eighteen state public service commissions and three foreign countries have done the same.

We therefore urge the Commission to expeditiously conclude its proceedings on this matter by November 3, 2006.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint
United States Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

Trent Lott
United States Senator

Gordon H. Smith
United States Senator

John E. Sununu
United States Senator

David Vitter
United States Senator

Richard Shelby
United States Senator

Richard Burr
United States Senator
Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As Members of Congress representing tens of thousands of constituents in the nine states that comprise the current BellSouth footprint, we urge you to move expeditiously to resolve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth.

As you know, few sectors of our economy are as dynamic as the telecommunications sector. Markets change rapidly, new technologies and services are developed, and aggressive competitors wage consumer-friendly battles to gain an edge with both current and would-be customers. As new players enter the markets, and existing players adapt to the changing competitive environment, we welcome the FCC’s statutory obligation to promote a competitive environment that serves consumers efficiently.

The proposed AT&T-BellSouth merger has the potential to provide significant new benefits for consumers. For example, we understand that AT&T and BellSouth have discussed with the Commission conditions that could substantially increase the extent and quality of services offered to our constituents. First, the newly merged company will offer $10 broadband access to all new customers within the new footprint. Second, any current AT&T-BellSouth customer using dial-up service will be offered a free upgrade to DSL. Third, “stand-alone” DSL will be offered to customers at a competitive rate, thereby no longer forcing customers to also purchase voice service. Most importantly, AT&T-BellSouth has made a commitment to deploy high-speed Internet service to rural areas and lower-income living units. It is time we bridge the digital divide in these communities and these consumer-focused offerings would go a long way to that end. Additional delay in the FCC’s evaluation of the merger could derail implementation of these conditions.
The record before the Commission is extensive and should allow for a timely review and a vote on this matter as currently scheduled on the FCC's docket (DA 06-2035 and WC Docket No. 06-74). Therefore, we urge you to make a decision on this merger by November 3.

Sincerely,

Robert E. "Bud" Cramer  
Member of Congress

Artur Davis  
Member of Congress

F. Allen Boyd, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Alicee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Kendrick B. Meek  
Member of Congress

Robert I. Wexler  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Lincoln Davis  
Member of Congress

Harold E. Ford, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress

Brad Miller  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress

John Barrow  
Member of Congress