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October 27, 2006

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket 06-74 – AT&T Inc. and BellSouth Corporation
Application for Transfer of Control -- Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 26, 2006, Glen Post, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CenturyTel, Inc. (“CenturyTel”), John Jones, Vice President, CenturyTel Regulatory and Government Relations, and I discussed the above-captioned proceeding with Commissioner Adelstein and Barry Ohlson. Mr. Post described CenturyTel’s operations both as an incumbent local exchange carrier and as a competitive local exchange carrier. He noted that expeditious decision-making on mergers and acquisitions is important to the industry as a whole. He described the importance to consumers that such transactions be reviewed in a timely fashion.

Mr. Post expressed CenturyTel’s support for the timely approval of the proposed merger with certain conditions. In particular, Mr. Post urged approval of the merger conditioned upon AT&T/BellSouth fulfillment of the Special Access,¹ Transit,² and ADSL Transmission Service³ commitments set forth in AT&T’s October 13 proposal for three years following FCC approval of the merger. CenturyTel believes these commitments will be sufficient for the continued development of competitive markets.

¹ See Letter from Robert W. Quinn, Jr., to Kevin Martin, Chairman, filed Oct. 13, 2006 in WC Docket 06-74, at 3-5.

² *Id.* at 5.

³ *Id.* at 6

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Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Karen Brinkmann

Counsel to CenturyTel, Inc.

Attachment

cc: Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Barry Ohlson, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein