



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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October 27, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Martin,

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act quickly to approve the proposed merger of AT&T and BellSouth. We believe the combination of these two companies offers significant benefits both for our economy and for consumers in South Carolina.

Together, these two companies intend to offer a broader range of products and services within the state that BellSouth cannot provide on its own. For example, this would accelerate BellSouth's entry into providing video services to consumers, which we have supported as a means of creating a more dynamic marketplace. In addition, the merger offers a larger base for research and development to expand new services to consumers and improve service to governmental customers.

We understand that each of the six commissions in the southeast that conducted a review of the merger has found that combining the two companies would benefit the public. In addition, the merger has been reviewed and approved without any conditions by twelve other state commissions outside the southeast and by the Department of Justice.

We also understand that public filings have been made outlining additional merger conditions that would be acceptable to AT&T/BellSouth. Specifically, the merger offers the possibility of universal broadband access within the BellSouth service territory by the end of 2007. We have made it a priority to increase access to high-speed internet throughout South Carolina, particularly in our rural areas. We believe significantly increased access to high-speed internet offers greater opportunities for both education and growing business in those parts of the state.

Finally, both companies have committed to maintain the strong level of support for communities and philanthropy that has made BellSouth a valuable corporate citizen in our state. We urge you to complete your review of this transaction as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "MS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Sanford

MS/se

cc: Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Marlene Dortch, FCC Secretary