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06-74

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Eddie Bernice Johnson
Congress of the United States

30th District, Texas

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October 30, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently reviewing the proposed acquisition of BellSouth Corporation by AT&T, Inc. (Applications for Consent to the Transfer of Control of Licenses BellSouth Corporation to AT&T, Inc., WC Docket No. 06-74). If approved, this merger will create the nation's largest telecommunications corporation. Despite the vast amalgamation of telecommunications infrastructure resulting from this merger, there remain areas of our nation that are lacking access to the new broadband services that are now available.

I support the efforts of the Concerned Mayors Alliance (CMA) in the merger proceedings to address the disparity in access to telecommunications services based on race, income and geography. The CMA represents mayors in the AT&T/BellSouth region who are concerned about the quality of telecommunications services being provided to their constituents. We are requesting that the FCC give due consideration to the issues raised by the CMA and impose appropriate conditions and procedures on the merger.

I also share the concerns of my colleague, Congressman John Conyers, in his letter to you on October 13, 2006, about the review process allowing for a measured approach to examining this merger. I respectfully ask that the FCC continue its comprehensive review of this merger and extend the process if required to give full consideration.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

10/30/06
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Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell