

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
Public Utilities Chairman
Constitution
Judiciary A
Medicaid
Ways and Means

FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV 15 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

October 26, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioners Michael Copps
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74, Support for AT&T BellSouth Merger

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

As Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee in the Mississippi House of Representatives, I have worked with my colleagues to introduce and deliver better telecommunications capabilities to all Mississippi residents. In our efforts, we must continually look to improve connection to all parts of our state. By permitting AT&T and BellSouth to merge, the Federal Communications Commission would be doing a great service to move forward in this regard.

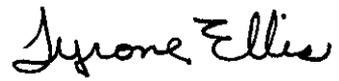
In representing residents of Mississippi, I see how we have come to rely on broadband connection and advanced telecommunications technologies on a daily basis. These tools are used in education, for work and to connect all of us in times of need. Especially after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, our citizens know the importance of these connections. They know how access can affect their daily lives. And they know how the digital divide can leave so many behind. With all of this in mind, I ask you to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth.

Upon its approval, this new entity may develop and provide advanced telecommunications access to more consumers in Mississippi. We stand to see expanded access to better technologies like broadband, which these companies have pledged to bring to the communities that need it most. As one of their many conditions, AT&T-BellSouth has promised that at least 30% of its new broadband deployment would be to low-income and rural areas. And the cost of these services would be an affordable \$10 per month. To the people that live in these communities, this is a significant sign of hope and progress toward the necessary and ever-important telecommunications access.

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Please help us in our quest to provide our residents with better service. I respectfully urge you to approve this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyrone Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" at the end.

Tyrone Ellis