



LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1100 Poydras Street, Suite 1410  
New Orleans, LA 70163

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Lambert C. Boissiere III  
Commissioner

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District III  
504-680-9529  
504-680-9536 Fax  
800-256-9413

October 25, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Commissioners:

As a member of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, I reviewed in great detail the proposed merger of AT&T and BellSouth, as our Commission was one of the 18 state commissions to approve this merger. I agreed with my fellow colleagues that this merger was the right step forward for Louisiana's consumers, and I ask you today to act swiftly to approve this transfer of control. In my view, combining these two companies would cut costs for consumers, spark technological innovation, and pave the way for speedier responses to natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. I respectfully urge you to approve the merger.

I am encouraged by AT&T's commitment, as a condition of the merger, to enhance disaster recovery capabilities in the BellSouth region, and to donate \$1 million to a section 501(c)(3) foundation engaged in this mission. I also welcome other commitments made by AT&T to accelerate approval of the merger. Providing broadband Internet access to all residences in the AT&T/BellSouth footprint, for example, will extend an increasingly indispensable service to thousands of Louisiana residents. The company also has promised to offer broadband connections for as little \$10 a month - a price that many low-income families will be able to afford.

Furthermore, the combined company would be able to speed deployment of new video services to Louisiana residents, providing much-needed competition in communities served by a single cable operator.

cc: [unclear] [unclear] 0  
List ABCDE

In summary, I am convinced that consumers will benefit from this merger, especially with the conditions proposed by AT&T. I urge you to approve it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lambert C. Boissiere III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lambert C. Boissiere III  
Commissioner, LPSC District III