October 25, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th 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.
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,

Lambert C. Boissiere III
Commissioner, LPSC District III