



Columbia
Urban League

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*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

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 & Commissioners:

The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement dedicated to empowering African Americans, both economically and socially. As a means to that end, the importance of being connected to the Internet has never been greater. For this reason, the South Carolina affiliates of the Urban League implore you to end the stalemate on the AT&T and BellSouth merger.

This deal offers to connect millions of consumers, including African Americans, within the AT&T-BellSouth footprint. If AT&T and BellSouth merge, their combined efforts aim to deliver this access to communities that need it most, at reasonable prices. How can we turn down their pledge to bring broadband service to every residential unit in its footprint? Doing so would be an injustice to millions of our citizens.

Likewise, as long as the FCC's vote is delayed, the wait continues in these communities. We hope that at your next meeting, you will promote the expansion of vital technologies by allowing this deal to go through. It is time to level the playing field in the 21st century to give everyone the opportunity to succeed.

We look forward to seeing this merger approved.

Sincerely,

James T. McLawhorn, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer

JTMjr/ch

