

December 13, 2006

Ex Parte

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

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my concern that the failure by the FCC to approve the BellSouth/AT&T merger in a timely fashion is delaying the significant benefits of video competition for North Carolina consumers.

This summer, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted H2047, the Video Services Competition Act, which reduces hurdles for competitive entry into the video services market by creating a single state franchise, beginning January 1, 2007.

As a Democrat and the primary sponsor of this popular legislation, I urge you to move with deliberate speed to rule on this issue. I'm told that this merger is expected to accelerate deployment of video services in states currently served by BellSouth, including North Carolina. It's hard to imagine how these companies can develop deployment plans in light of the uncertainty that accrues from the merger delay.

In the few other states where similar legislation has passed or is pending, AT&T has announced significant plans for hundreds of millions of dollars of new investment and numerous new jobs. I'm troubled that continued delay could cost North Carolina significant investment and jobs.

As I understand it, the appropriate state commissions and the U.S. Justice Department have approved the merger. The companies have made significant commitments over and above previous mergers, including a commitment to expand to every residence the availability of high-speed broadband -- a necessary ingredient for video services.

Please give consideration to the many consumers who will reap benefits from this merger and move expeditiously so that we can enjoy real video competition in NC.

Sincerely,



Becky Carney
Representative of 102nd House District
North Carolina General Assembly