

December 13, 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 FCC Chairman & Commissioners:

In October, we, The 100 Black Men of America Inc.'s, Birmingham Alabama Chapter, wrote to urge you to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. It was and continues to be our belief that the resulting entity would be better able to provide access to greater telecommunications technologies for the millions of Americans being left behind. Many of these people are African Americans and other minorities who are missing the enormous economic and educational opportunity delivered by the Internet. As mentors in the African American communities in which we live and serve, we know that many people far too often are being forced to live without these essential services.

As we wrote before, the benefits from this merger are vital to level the playing field and necessary to improve economic and educational opportunities. AT&T has pledged that at least thirty-percent of their broadband expansion would be to low-income communities. They will also deploy this technology to every residential household currently within the AT&T– BellSouth footprint. But with yet another delay by the FCC, our communities can expect not to receive the access that we so desperately need and deserve.

Together we can close the very real Digital Divide by working with telecommunications providers, not against them. We need better access for a better and brighter future, and we hope we have your support.

Please vote to approve this merger at your next meeting.

Sincerely,



Cedric Sparks,

President, The 100 Black Men Inc., Birmingham, Alabama