



Richmond Industrial Development Corporation

Post Office Box 250 • 239 West Main Street • Richmond, Kentucky 40476-0250
ridc@richmond.ky.us • 859-623-1000 • Facsimile: 859-625-1050

December 13, 2006

Kevin Martin, Chairman
Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner
Michael Copps, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Robert McDowell, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner

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

Dear FCC Chairman & Commissioners:

I am writing to urge expeditious approval of the BellSouth/AT&T merger. As the Executive Director of the Richmond Industrial Development Corporation, I know first hand the issues impeding economic growth in rural areas of our State. This merger will address one of the most critical needs required of any community seeking to grow its economy and new jobs – affordable and universal broadband Internet access.

The proposed AT&T/BellSouth merger could be the catalyst for dynamic economic change, especially in our rural communities. As a proposed condition of the merger, AT&T and BellSouth have committed to deliver *affordable* and *universal* access to broadband, including:

- A new residential broadband offering at \$10 per month for 12 months, affording many rural communities a viable alternative to dial access;
- A pledge to provide broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth service area, providing rural economic developers a necessary tool to recruit new economic development prospects to our rural communities.

The merger of these great American companies will significantly enhance the economic viability of the communities we serve. I ask you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger without further delay.

Sincerely,

James H. Howard
Executive Director