

Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO

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December 15, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioners Michael Copps Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate 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:

The South Carolina office of The Communications Workers of America (CWA, and the eight (8) locals we represent, encourages you to vote on the merger of AT&T and BellSouth at your next meeting. This merger, having been delayed three times already, offers to quicken the deployment of broadband connections across the country. Efforts to do so cannot be considered anything less than top priority – in 2000, the United States was ranked 2nd in broadband deployment worldwide. Today, the U.S. is ranked 16th worldwide. We need to work quickly to catch up if we want to compete on a global scale.

When companies like AT&T and BellSouth intend to invest billions in broadband deployment, it is important to encourage, not inhibit, their work. The task of building broadband connections to rural and underserved areas is not a small, nor an easy one. But allowing investment to be made, and the work to begin, is invaluable to continued American success.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Keene

Jerry D. Keene
SC CWA Representative

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