December 21, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner 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 and Commissioners:

In October, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., 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.

Too many people, especially African Americans, are missing the enormous economic and educational opportunity delivered by the Internet. They are forced to go without these essential services. This is the Digital Divide. It is real and it is not going away.

As we wrote before, the benefits from this merger are vital to level the playing field. AT&T pledged that at least 30% 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, these people will not receive the access they need and deserve. They will continue to be at a disadvantage.

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

Please vote to approve this merger at your next meeting.
Sincerely,

Sean B. Perkins, Executive Director
100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc.

What They See Is What They'll Be