

December 21, 2006

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

Re: Support for Application for Consent to Transfer of Control Filed by AT&T, Inc.  
and BellSouth Corporation, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

As a member of the high-tech manufacturing and services industry, I am writing to ask that you urge the Federal Communications Commission to expeditiously approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger. This merger will increase investment in new telecommunications infrastructure and accelerate the deployment of broadband and other next-generation telecommunications technologies. Delay by the FCC in approving this merger is hurting investment and slowing broadband deployment.

In our work, we aim continually to develop greater tools to deliver broadband to more American consumers in all parts of the country. We stand at the vanguard of innovation. But the Commission's delay in approving this transaction has created uncertainty and delays in investment decisions that are adversely affecting broadband and other network investments by both applicants and their Cingular joint venture. Our companies know this first-hand.

The Commission, and the Congress have all acknowledged that broadband services, applications, and equipment are essential to the economic and social well-being of our Nation. Consumers and America's businesses are the ones harmed by the delay, and we as a Nation put ourselves at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world. Further delay in this matter does not serve the public interest.

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We respectfully urge the Federal Communications Commission to act now to approve this merger so that our companies can get on with its business of investing in America's telecommunications infrastructure and bringing much needed broadband technology to America's homes and businesses. It is both the correct decision, and a necessary one. It should be made as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Bill Johnson  
President & CEO

BJ:jaw

# **NAM** National Association of Manufacturers

John Engler

President and CEO

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December 12, 2006

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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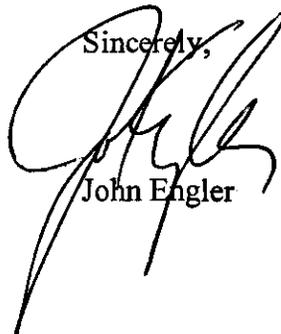
Dear Chairman Martin:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)—the nation's oldest and largest broad-based industrial trade association—strongly supports Commission action that would remove uncertainty, and encourage the deployment of, new fiber-optic networks offering voice, video and data services to consumers and businesses nationwide. In this light, we urge you to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth, and to help lead the way toward a technological future where great progress can be made.

By voting to approve this merger, the FCC would bring certainty to the industry, thus creating an environment that promotes investment in telecommunications to improve the industry and enable new and better technologies to emerge.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer our views and thank you in advance for your support of this merger. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 637-3106.

Sincerely,



John Engler

JE/jp

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate  
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell

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*Manufacturing Makes America Strong*