

December 29, 2006
For Immediate Release



MAP Says AT&T Concessions Make A Bad Merger Less Bad

Media Access Project issued the following statement in response to today's FCC action approving the AT&T/BellSouth merger:

"MAP salutes FCC Commissioners Copps and Adelstein for obtaining significant and unprecedented concessions as conditions for approving the ATT/BellSouth merger."

"All things considered, it would have been better that AT&T were not allowed to acquire BellSouth. However, given the Justice Department's outrageous failure to stop this deal, it would have been impossible for the FCC to stop the merger on its own. Commissioners Copps and Adelstein clearly got the best possible deal, making a bad merger less bad."

"Our colleagues in the public interest community deserve kudos for successfully advocating sweeping and important net neutrality provisions. The fact that neutrality is being applied to wireless broadband for the first time should not be underestimated. This breaks the "wireless barrier" against extending network neutrality beyond DSL and cable broadband. As of today, any fixed broadband platform that serves a residential home can and should operate in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner."

"One additional concession which may be underappreciated is the requirement that a large swath of wireless spectrum be divested. While the future of this WiMax technology remains unclear, it has the potential to offer competition to DSL and cable broadband. The divestiture ordered today offers the possibility of the creation of a competitive wireless broadband offering over the next few years."

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