

Report: FCC nominee off BellSouth merger?

March 9 2006

Federal Communications Commission nominee Robert McDowell might have to sit out deliberations on the merger of BellSouth and AT&T.

A telecom lawyer told USA Today Thursday that McDowell's position as counsel for a telecom trade group that has opposed similar mergers in the past and could take a formal stand against the proposed \$67 billion deal.

The issue would likely come up Thursday at McDowell's confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee.

Should Republican McDowell recuse himself from case, the FCC would be evenly split between GOP and Democratic members, which would give the Democrats greater ability to leverage concessions on retail prices out of AT&T. Republican Chairman Kevin Martin has been against attaching conditions to past mergers, the newspaper said.

Some USA Today sources, however, said a recusal was not a done deal since most FCC commissioners have some past links to the industry they regulate.

Copyright 2006 by United Press International

Citation: Report: FCC nominee off BellSouth merger? (2006, March 9) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-03-fcc-nominee-bellsouth-merger.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.