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September 28, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
SEP 28 1998  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ex parte contacts in CC Docket No. 96-198

Dear Secretary Salas:

This will serve as notice that representatives and members of the Information Technology Industry Council ("ITI") met today with Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth and Paul Misener, to discuss ITI's position on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced docket. In addition to the undersigned, Fiona Branton (ITI), Paul Forlenza (IBM), and Virginia Bartlett (Sony) participated in the meeting. A copy of the handout that was used at each meeting is attached hereto.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206(a)(1) two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary of the Commission today.

Sincerely,



Janine F. Goodman  
Counsel for the  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Attachment

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List A B C D E

## **I. THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MARKETPLACE: A "PLUG AND PLAY" WORLD**

### **◆ The results:**

- ◆ Robust competition
- ◆ Technological innovation
- ◆ Broader variety of specialized products
- ◆ More consumer choice
- ◆ More responsive to consumer needs
- ◆ Prevalence of niche players

### **◆ What this means for individuals with disabilities:**

- ◆ Enables consumers to customize their systems to meet unique needs
- ◆ Rapid dissemination of technological advances/solutions
- ◆ Greater accessibility without compromising innovation

## **II. SECTION 255: SHOULD HARNESS MARKETPLACE TRENDS**

### **◆ Adopt flexible rules**

- ◆ Access Board Guidelines - Relevant but not determinative
- ◆ Accessibility through product families, marketwide availability, compatibility
- ◆ Readily achievable factors - Focus on practical considerations

### **◆ Adhere to Congress's express language and intent**

- ◆ Outside the scope: information services, software

### **◆ Apply "direct control" approach in allocating responsibility**

- ◆ *e.g.* Multi-use equipment

### **◆ Establish constructive problem resolution mechanisms**

- ◆ Mandatory, initial contact with manufacturer
- ◆ Adequate response deadlines