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Office of Information Technology
Telecommunications Access of Maryland

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July 7, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Ex Parte Meeting
WT Docket No. 96-198

Dear Ms. Salas:

On Tuesday, July 7, 1999, Gilbert Becker and Nancy Seidman of the Maryland, Department of Budget and Management and Clayton Bowen and Susan Roach from the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing met with Tom Power of Chairman Kennard's office to discuss issues concerning the above docket on telecommunications access.

At the meeting, we discussed issues critical to those individuals whose only means of communication to the standard telephone network is through Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS). Currently there is no simple method to access what has become commonplace telephone contact with businesses and services. Access to voice menu driven services are time consuming and often completely inaccessible through TRS.

Voice mail, interactive telephone prompt systems, and Internet telephone are becoming the standard and it is critical that this technology be adopted within Section 255.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Becker, Director
Telecommunications Access Of Maryland
Maryland Relay

Clayton Bowen, Business Manager
Virginia Department of the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing

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