

American Foundation for the Blind
820 First Street, N.E., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20002
August 6, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentations GN Docket 00-185; CS Docket
02-52; CC Dockets 02-33, 95-20, 98-10

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 5, 2002, Paul Schroeder of the American Foundation for the Blind and Karen Peltz Strauss of KPS Consulting met with Matthew Brill of Commissioner Abernathy's staff and Kyle Dixon of the Media Bureau for the purpose of discussing broadband and people with disabilities. We discussed the need to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind as our nation shifts to broadband services, and specifically discussed use of the FCC's ancillary jurisdiction for the purpose of safeguarding disability interests.

On August 6, 2002, the attached e-mail messages were sent as a follow-up to these meetings. The comments referred to in these messages were already filed in the appropriate dockets.

Sincerely,

Karen Peltz Strauss
Policy Consultant on behalf of the
American Foundation for the Blind

E-mail message sent to Kyle Dixon – August 6, 2002:
Copy to Paul Schroeder

Kyle

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Paul and me yesterday on broadband issues related to people with disabilities. Per your request, the url for the new publication on broadband and people with disabilities is:

Bowe, F., National Association of the Deaf, “Broadband and Americans with Disabilities,” (2002), www.newmillenniumresearch.org/disability.pdf

In addition, I have attached the American Foundation for the Blind comments submitted in both the wireline and cable proceedings. The comments on using ancillary jurisdiction under Title I can be found on pages 14-17 of the cable comments and 12-15 of the wireline comments. Both discuss how Title I was used to extend Section 255 jurisdiction to IVR and voice mail, two services traditionally characterized as information services.

Let me know if there is any additional information that we can provide to you. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Karen Peltz Strauss

E-mail message sent to Matthew Brill – August 6, 2002
Copy to Paul Schroeder

Matt

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Paul and me yesterday on broadband issues related to people with disabilities. Per your request, the FCC's discussion on extending Section 255 coverage to IVR and voice mail services can be found at:

In the Matter of Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities, Report and Order and Further Notice of Inquiry, WT Dkt. No. 96-198, FCC 99-181 (rel. Sept. 29, 1999) at paras. 93-106.

In addition, I have attached the American Foundation for the Blind comments submitted in both the cable modem and wireline proceedings. The comments on using ancillary jurisdiction under Title I can be found on pages 14-17 of the cable comments and 12-15 of the wireline comments. Both discuss how Title I was used to extend Section 255 jurisdiction to IVR and voice mail. Page 16 of the cable modem comments also list the various statutes that Congress has enacted to ensure access to communications technologies and services by people with disabilities.

Let me know if there is any additional information that we can provide for you. We look forward to working on this issue with you.

Karen Peltz Strauss
kpsconsulting@starpower.net
202-363-5599