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July 30, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication in CS Docket No. 97-80 (Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices) and PP Docket No. 00-67 (Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 29, 2003, the undersigned, on behalf of Thomson Inc., had a telephone conversation with Stacy Robinson, Mass Media Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy, concerning the "Plug and Play" agreement ("Agreement") that is the subject of a pending Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above referenced dockets. During our conversation, I explained the practical necessity and public policy justifications for the Commission adopting the Agreement in its entirety and not deferring action on the encoding rules. In particular, I discussed the centrality of the encoding rules to the DFAST licensing scheme from the perspective of both the consumer electronics industry and consumers' recording expectations. I further discussed the essentiality of the encoding rules from the perspective of the cable industry in terms of its access to high value content in parity with other MVPDs and the difficulties of making a DFAST license available to manufacturers without adoption by the Commission of the encoding rules. These views conform to the comments and reply comments filed by the Consumer Electronics Association and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association in this proceeding.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1206, one copy of this letter is being filed electronically. Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence R. Sidman

cc: Stacy Robinson