

April 11, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Transfer of licenses from Nextel Wireless to SprintWireless, WT Docket
No. 05-63

Dear Chairman Martin,

I am writing on behalf of the American Council of the Blind to express our organization's support for the merger of Nextel Wireless and Sprint. It is our hope that the Federal Communications Commission will approve this merger because we believe that it would be beneficial to the public as a whole, and that it would be of particular benefit to people with visual impairments.

Sprint has been very responsive to the needs and concerns of cellular telephone users who have disabilities. They offer customers who cannot use a visual display, have difficulty sequencing numbers, or have difficulty dialing a telephone, access to their Voice Command service, free of charge. They offer blind and visually impaired customers access to free directory assistance calls and billing statements in alternate formats. They have sought input from people with disabilities regarding concerns about the accessibility of handsets and have worked with manufacturers to see that the needs of people with visual and other disabilities are met. Significant steps have been taken in this regard and we believe that Sprint is committed to continued support for efforts to increase the accessibility of the handsets they sell.

Sprint's positive and proactive practices have benefited their current customers with disabilities. We believe that a merger with Nextel will enable them to benefit an even larger customer base. In addition, it will enable them to take advantage of additional technologies to provide increased accessibility to a greater number of cellular phone services and features. Over the long term, their increased purchasing power could increase their

ability to influence the design of handsets so that accessibility features will be more readily and cost-effectively incorporated into cell phones, which will benefit the market as a whole.

The American Council of the Blind does not ordinarily take positions on issues related to corporate mergers. However, we believe that the merger under consideration could have positive consequences for both the general public and for people with disabilities. Therefore, we are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to find this merger to be in the public interest and approve its consummation.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Melanie Brunson, Executive Director

cc:

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein