

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Transfer of Licenses from Nextel) WT Docket No. 05-63
Communications to Sprint Corporation)

Comments of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) sends these comments to support the Sprint Corporation request for approval to merge with Nextel Communications. We do not have the expertise to speak to areas such as market share, bandwidth and competitiveness. However, we can speak to our observations and interactions with Sprint in areas of access and opportunity for people with hearing loss.

Sprint has supported a range of efforts to address the technological barriers to people who have hearing loss. Their strong support and commitment for Sprint Relay has provided critical communications access for thousands of adults with communication challenges. They have been leaders in devoting resources to evolving relay technology to meet the needs of people with a range of hearing loss and communication styles as can be seen with their commitment to CapTel, Video and Internet Relay. They have also led the way in ensuring that their TV and other media advertising are accessible to people with hearing loss. They have actively sought input from people with hearing loss to better understand their telecommunication needs.

Sprint has also sponsored national and state efforts to increase the leadership skills of individuals with hearing loss. This has increased capacity within consumer organizations and enabled individuals with hearing loss to take a leadership role in their community.

Though there are less concrete results yet in the area of hearing aid compatibility, Sprint has been an active participant and supporter of the technical incubator that is currently underway and meeting regularly.

SHHH asks that the FCC review the commitment and record of corporations in the area of disabilities prior to making rulings. We believe it is important for corporations, especially those in the communications industry, to give due consideration to the needs of people with disabilities in the development of products and services.

Respectfully submitted,

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