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May 3, 2005

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman
Ms. Kathleen Abernathy, Commissioner
Mr. Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner
Mr. Michael Copps, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Sprint Nextel Merger

Dear Chairman Martin, and Commissioners Abernathy, Adelstein and Copps:

Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) is a non-profit organization that advocates for equal access to telecommunications and media for consumers who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and Deaf-Blind at the national level. TDI works closely with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the voice of our constituents is heard.

We are pleased to lend our full support to Sprint's acquisition of Nextel Wireless. Prior to the merger, Sprint has been a proven leader in telecommunications relay services and from their partnership with CSD, Inc. has deployed innovative communications solutions that bring us closer to functional equivalency such as Video Relay Service. As a leader in Section 255 compliance, Sprint continues its commitment in making their telecommunication products and services accessible and useable by people with disabilities. We are confident with this merger; Sprint/Nextel will continue its fine tradition of providing exemplary services to people with disabilities, especially consumers with hearing disabilities that TDI serves.

Sprint is a model by which other telecommunication providers should emulate. The combined spectrum holdings of Sprint and Nextel in the 2.5 GHz bands will allow for investment in networks that enables wireless interactive multimedia services, and can accelerate the availability of video and multimedia applications to people with hearing disabilities, particularly those who use American Sign Language. The merger will extend Sprint/Nextel products and services across a wider population of 40+ million customers.

We evaluate the potential benefits of such mergers to consumers by looking at the "four C's" - Cost-benefits, Convenience, Choices and Customer Care. Sprint can bring more cost-benefits to the consumer by increasing its buying power on handsets, and having more options in its design and development that will bring access to the consumer. The combination of Sprint and Nextel will create one of the nation's largest wireless telecommunication systems; thus consumers will find greater convenience wherever they go for service. More choices abound for consumers as they select from an array of handsets that will meet their needs, including TTY or hearing aid compatibility. And finally, when you have all of this together along with top quality customer care and Sprint's fifth "C", the special, well-proven Commitment to people with disabilities, everyone wins!

Sincerely,

Claude L. Stout

***"Promoting Equal Access to Telecommunications and Media for
People who are Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard-of-Hearing or Deaf-Blind"***