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July 31, 2006

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

Re: CS Docket No. 97-80: Joint Status Report of the Consumer Electronics Association and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Consumer Electronics Association (“CEA”) and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (“NCTA”), hereby submit the status report called for in the Second Report and Order in CS Docket No. 97-80, FCC 05-76, 20 FCC Rcd 6794 (rel. March 17, 2005) (“Second R&O). In the Second R&O, the Commission reviewed progress in negotiations, and pending issues, between the consumer electronics and cable industries, involving at times other interested parties, and required (par. 34) that “NCTA and CEA shall file joint status reports and hold joint status meetings with the Commission on or before August 1, 2005 and every 60 days thereafter on progress in bidirectional talks and a software-based conditional access agreement.”

Since the date of the last status report, the parties’ business teams met in June and in separate meetings, the parties’ engineering teams discussed the development of a workable conformance testing program for interactive products and software applications designed to run on them, based upon the framework previously described in earlier status reports. A further meeting is planned in August.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Neal M. Goldberg

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