



Sprint Nextel
2001 Edmund Halley Drive, 2nd Floor
Reston, VA 20191
Office: (703) 592-5188 Fax: (703) 433-4804

John E. Benedict
Director
Government Affairs

February 7, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Room TWB-204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Communication**

Petition of Time Warner Cable for Declaratory Ruling that Competitive Local Exchange Carriers May Obtain Interconnection Under Section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, to Provide Wholesale Telecommunications Services to VoIP Providers

WC Docket No. 06-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 6, 2007, Anna Gomez spoke with Ian Dillner, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Deborah Tate on behalf of Sprint Nextel Corporation about the petition for declaratory ruling, pending in this docket.

She explained that Sprint Nextel supports prompt grant of the petition to ensure that federal law is applied correctly and consistently. Wholesale carriers enable competition and benefit the consumers. Misapplication of section 251 of the Act by some state commissions, and mischaracterization of section 251 obligations by some rural LECs, is frustrating entry, preventing consumer choice, and discouraging investment in rural areas that most need it.

Sections 251(a) and (b) obligate all LECs, even rural carriers, to interconnect with wholesale telecommunications carriers for the exchange of traffic in support of cable telephony or other competitive services. A thorough, comprehensive order is important to ensure federal law is properly applied, to enable competition and consumer choice, and to end continued, needless litigation and appeals by some rural LECs that are unwilling to accept their obligations under federal law.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, Sprint is filing an electronic copy of this notice for addition to the docket.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Benedict

cc: Ian Dillner