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August 10, 2007

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice: *Telecommunication Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities* – CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 9, 2007, Michael Fingerhut, Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint Nextel”); Frank Buono, outside counsel for Snap!VRS (“Snap”); Mike Maddix, Sorenson Communications, Inc. (“Sorenson”); and Ruth Milkman, outside counsel for Sorenson; met separately with: Chris Moore, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Tate; Scott Bergmann, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein; Scott Deutchman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Capps; and John Hunter, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell.

In those meetings, Snap, Sorenson and Sprint Nextel discussed the proposal described in their written *ex parte* of June 27, 2007, and urged the Commission to adopt promptly a three-year tiered price-cap rate methodology for Video Relay Service (VRS). The companies stated that the certainty and stability that will come with a three-year approach, at reasonable levels, are critical to providing quality Video Relay Services to the deaf community. The companies also stated that adoption of a new rate methodology by October 1, 2007 would be highly desirable, as it would avoid the need for companies to begin the resource-intensive effort of collecting the data required by the Commission’s current rules, an effort that would be unnecessary and wasteful if the Commission were to alter the rate methodology in advance of the rate year beginning on July 1, 2008.

In addition, in the meeting with Mr. Deutchman, Sprint Nextel stated that if the Commission were to adopt the MARS plan, the Commission would need to: (1) provide for an adjustment mechanism to account for increases in the state rates that occur during the fund year; (2) adopt a separate rate for captioned telephone service, rather than reimbursing at the traditional TRS rate for those services; and (3) include in the calculation

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of the average rate *all* rate elements paid by a state for TRS service, including any monthly recurring charges to cover non-traffic-sensitive costs incurred by the TRS provider.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, this letter is being submitted for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ruth Milkman
Ruth Milkman

cc: Scott Bergmann
Scott Deutchman
John Hunter
Chris Moore