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July 14, 2008

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 July 11, 2008, Mike Maddix of Sorenson Communications, Inc. (“Sorenson”); Michael DeSanctis of Jenner & Block LLP, counsel for Sorenson; and the undersigned, also counsel for Sorenson, met with Scott Deutchman, legal advisor to Commissioner Copps. Today, the same Sorenson representatives met separately with Scott Bergmann, legal advisor to Commissioner Adelstein, and John Hunter, legal advisor to Commissioner McDowell, and Mr. Maddix and Ms. Milkman met with Greg Orlando, legal advisor to Commissioner Tate. In all four meetings, the parties discussed the petition filed by certain of Sorenson’s competitors regarding “non-compete” provisions in Sorenson’s private contracts with interpreters.¹ During the meetings, Sorenson reaffirmed that these provisions are lawful and serve the public interest by helping Sorenson expand the pool of qualified interpreters available for video relay service and community interpreting. Sorenson also explained that the FCC lacks jurisdiction or any sound policy basis to void or otherwise interfere with the non-compete provisions. The discussion during the meetings was consistent with Sorenson’s previous written submissions in this proceeding. During the meeting with Mr. Orlando, Sorenson also showed the attached slide, which demonstrates how video relay service works.

¹ See *Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Video Relay Service (VRS) Provider Employment Contracts with VRS Communications Assistants (CAs)*, Public Notice, CG Docket No. 03-123, 22 FCC Rcd 14048 (2007) (summarizing and seeking comment on petition for declaratory ruling that Sorenson’s non-compete clauses should be prohibited).

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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

Attachment

cc: Scott Bergmann
Scott Deutchman
John Hunter
Greg Orlando

Video Relay Service (VRS)

- VRS is a service that enables deaf users of American Sign Language (ASL) to use video equipment to conduct calls with family members, friends, or business associates through a sign language interpreter.

