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March 2, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication; RM-11065; CG Docket No. 03-123; CG Docket No. 05-231; ET Docket No. 99-254; WC Docket No. 05-196; WT Docket No. 01-309

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 27, 2009, Claude Stout, Executive Director, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.; Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, Hearing Loss Association of America; Cheryl Heppner, Vice Chair, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network; Karen Peltz Strauss, Attorney with the Communication Service for the Deaf; Randy Pope, Public Relations Specialist, American Association for the Deaf-Blind; Elizabeth Spiers, Director of Information Services, American Association for the Deaf-Blind; Jamie Pope, Executive Director, American Association for the Deaf-Blind; Sheri A. Farinha, Vice Chair, California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (via speakerphone) (collectively, the "Consumer Groups"); and the undersigned, met with Rick Chessen, Acting Chief of Staff to Acting Chairman Michael Copps; Scott Deutchman, Acting Legal Advisor to Acting Chairman Michael Copps; Paul Murray, Acting Legal Advisor to Acting Chairman Michael Copps; and Mary Beth Richards, Deputy General Counsel.

The Consumer Groups provided their recommendations and expectations of the role, major responsibilities, scope of work, and short and long-term goals of the Disability Rights Office ("DRO") in the new administration. The Consumer Groups also suggested that the DRO be a stand-alone, independent office that provides oversight function to ensure that all FCC proceedings and policies are consistent with the overall goal of ensuring access by people with disabilities to emerging technologies.

The Consumer Groups also asked that Commission take action on the issues raised in the captioning quality petition filed in July 2004 in RM-11065 that has not yet been resolved. The Consumer Groups further requested that the Commission and DRO closely monitor and analyze the progress of the implementation of the order requiring 10-digit NANP numbering and E911 services for Internet-based TRS users, and take appropriate action to ensure effective consumer outreach and education, as well as full implementation by all IP Relay and VRS providers.

The Consumer Groups urged the Commission to grant the petition filed by member affiliates of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technologies to allow use of

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the Universal Service Fund to subsidize low-income deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind individuals in their purchase of broadband service (through the Lifeline and Link-up programs) and to defray the cost of specialized telecommunication devices needed by people who are deaf-blind.

The attached document was distributed at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Nguyen T. Vu
Counsel to Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

cc (by e-mail):

Rick Chessen
Scott Deutchman
Paul Murray
Mary Beth Richards

Enclosure