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February 11, 2010

Ex Parte

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

Re: GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, and 09-137

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 9, 2010, Rob Sinclair, Norm Hodne, Laura Ruby, and Paula Boyd of Microsoft discussed issues related to accessibility and broadband with Elizabeth Lyle of the FCC's Broadband Team. During this discussion, Ms. Ruby noted the importance of updating accessibility policy by coordinating efforts across the Executive Branch more effectively and better leveraging the resources of the government; developing data to better identify the barriers for technology adoption; providing incentives for industry to build innovative accessible technologies; improving the government's implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act; and collaborating with industry and consumers to facilitate the sharing of best practices.

Ms. Boyd highlighted the work that needs to be done by all stakeholders to update accessibility policy while still enabling robust technology innovation. Mr. Sinclair discussed the importance of allocating funding for Assistive Technology (AT) vendors to develop specialized accessibility solutions for the current ecosystem of technologies; he also encouraged the Commission to consider organizations like the Accessibility Interoperability Alliance (AIA) to guide the technical innovation necessary to advance the country's existing accessibility infrastructure. Mr. Hodne noted that funding should be extended to custom control vendors to make their controls and tools accessible to vendors for testing in order to meet the goal of achieving a more accessible ecosystem.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically in the above referenced dockets. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions concerning this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paula Boyd

Paula Boyd
Regulatory Counsel for Microsoft Corp.

cc: Elizabeth Lyle