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February 18, 2010

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

RE: International Comparison and Consumer Survey Requirements in the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 09-47; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to all Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 09-137; Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices, GN Docket No. 97-80

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 17, 2010, Verizon representatives conducted a demonstration for FCC officials of their innovative FiOS TV service and home networking architecture. The following Verizon representatives participated: Kathleen Grillo, David Young, Ed Shakin, Will Johnson, Leora Hochstein, Kitty O'Hara, Joseph Ambeault, Samba Karnati, Angel Cordero, Michael Runne, and Vijay Selvaraj. FCC attendees included: Phil Bellaria, Nancy Murphy, Mary Beth Murphy, Steve Broeckaert, Brendan Murray, and Alison Neplokh.

We discussed the trend toward convergence of the Internet and the television and demonstrated how our FiOS TV subscribers, today, may use their televisions to access Internet content, such as Facebook and Twitter, without interrupting their viewing of video programming. We also demonstrated how, in the near future, customers will be able to access our FiOS TV programming through a variety of consumer electronics devices (rather than solely through a set-top box), likely via an IP media gateway or similar device that can communicate with, and deliver, a video providers' service to other networked devices. We explained that collaborative work with manufacturers that is currently well underway promises to enable consumers to use their existing devices – such as game consoles and networked blu-ray players - instead of leased set-top boxes to access providers' video services. As these market-driven standards are adopted, many more such devices will come to market in the near future. In response to consumer demand and in order to offer innovative products that more effectively compete in the video marketplace, Verizon and other video providers are already experimenting with these capabilities and more will undoubtedly

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do so shortly. These developments – which are occurring without the presence of any new technological mandate – promise to finally achieve the objectives of Section 629 and will lead to increased competition and innovation throughout the video marketplace (including video provided over the Internet). New technology mandates, however, could freeze these developments in their tracks and distort the pro-consumer innovation that is already well underway.

Given the progress that is being made in video device innovation, we urged the FCC to avoid adopting new rules that would require the provision of specific devices or any technological standards, particularly in light of the fact that previous attempts to require specific technological features in video devices have met with little practical success. As the Commission considers alternative ways to increase competition and innovation in this marketplace, we encouraged the Commission to work with the industry and other stakeholders to foster the evolution in the video marketplace that is already taking place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joni Hertz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J".