

June 17, 2010

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket No. 10-51

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am an American Sign Language – English interpreter. I work part time for a Video Relay Service, which is a service that enables deaf individuals to communicate with hearing individuals using their first language. This has been incredibly beneficial to deaf individuals and hearing individuals all across the United States. For interpreters working in Canada, this is an interesting and rewarding work environment. I personally have benefitted greatly from my work interpreting in a Video Relay Service company.

From the very start of my training, I have always been instructed only to interpret calls to or from the United States. My understanding of the recent proposal by the United States Federal Communications Commission prohibiting the use of Canadian call centres for American Video Relay Service companies is that the basis of the proposal is the concern that Canadian-to-Canadian calls are promoted through Canadian companies. This would violate Video Relay Service agreements for paid interpretation time from the FCC. Interpreters who I have worked with and talked to in the Canadian call centres have never been trained to interpret Canada-to-Canada video relay calls.

The proposal by the FCC to shut down Canadian centres for American Video Relay Service providers seems arbitrary and unfounded upon either procedures or practice of current Video Relay Service call centres. Not only do Canadian call centres provide a unique work environment for interpreters such as myself, but they also provide a valuable and rare skill set to American companies. I see no reason to think that the use of Canadian companies is anything but mutually beneficial.

For these reasons and others too numerous to expound upon, I strongly urge you to reject any proposal to prohibit the use of Canadian call centres and Canadian interpreters. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Darla', written in a cursive style.

Darla Stewart