

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket No. 10-51

I am writing to protest a recent proposal by the United States Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") that would prohibit United States providers of Video Relay Service ("VRS") from locating call centers staffed with American Sign Language ("ASL") interpreters in Canada. Now more than ever, it is important for the FCC to know that Canada to Canada VRS calls were successfully made, but never through Sorenson VRS, as they have followed and respected the FCC while other providers processed calls against FCC regulations.

As a member of the Deaf community in Nova Scotia, I can say Sorenson has not provided VRS service to Canadians. Sorenson Communications has centres across Canada and the decision to close these call centres would be a travesty for the Deaf and interpreting communities future potential in Canada. Closing call centres would result in hundreds of interpreters losing their jobs and having to relocate leaving our community with a shortage of interpreters. Because of regulatory delay by the CRTC and telephone companies, we do not have VRS in Canada at this time. However, TELUS is about to start a one year trial of the service, working closely with Sorenson Communications. Beyond the trial, it could be 2 or more years before we see VRS offered in Canada.

I encourage you to reconsider your decision

Sincerely,

Steven John Cook