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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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November 26, 2007

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The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20445

Dear Chairman Martin:

On October 30, 2007, the Committee on Energy and Commerce approved H.R. 3403, the 911 Modernization and Public Safety Act of 2007. During consideration of this measure, Representative Inslee brought to the Committee's attention the lack of equal access to 911 services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and use video relay services (VRS) to communicate. We understand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has two open rulemakings that address this issue. We write to urge the Commission to resolve these rulemakings as expeditiously as possible.

Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Access to Emergency Services, CG Docket No. 03-123, FCC 05-196, which has been pending for 2 years, concerns the ability of VRS providers to offer enhanced 911 service to the deaf and hard of hearing. *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123, FCC 06-57, which has been pending for 18 months, concerns numbering issues that would enable disabled consumers who rely on VRS to communicate with each other.

The Communications Act of 1934 directs the Commission to make the Nation's telecommunications system available to all Americans. We believe this mandate is especially true for Americans with disabilities. The ability to use 911 is a core component of our telecommunications system. Because members of the disabilities community may not be able to hear or speak to an emergency operator, it is critical that those who rely on VRS have meaningful access to the 911 system.

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In light of the public safety implications of these proceedings, the Commission should conclude them expeditiously. We would ask that the Commission complete CG Docket No. 03-123, FCC 05-196, before the end of the year and CG Docket No. 03-123, FCC 06-57, no later than the end of the first quarter of 2008.

If the Commission will be unable to complete these proceedings within this period, please notify the Committee in writing.

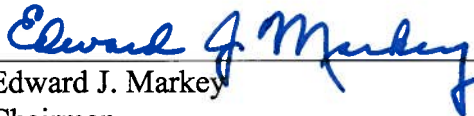
Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet



Fred Upton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet

cc: The Honorable Jay Inslee, Member
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet

The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission