



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Woolsey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Purple Communications, Inc., Petition for Rulemaking on the Video Relay Service (VRS), a form of Telecommunications Relay Service. I strongly support VRS and appreciate its development into a critical communications tool for many. The Commission remains dedicated to fulfilling Congress's objectives in creating the VRS program.

Purple's petition, among other things, had asked the Commission to adopt formal rules confirming that the ADA permits the reimbursement of multi-party VRS calls, regardless of whether a hearing individual is on the call. The petition also asked the Commission to confirm the lawfulness of certain outreach and marketing practices. In dismissing the relevant portion of Purple's petition on September 18, 2009, the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau noted that Purple (through a predecessor company, GoAmerica) had, along with other petitioners in January 2009, "accepted . . . that the Commission currently does not allow compensation for services that enable individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled to communicate with each other via VRS." The Bureau additionally reiterated that VRS calls not involving a hearing individual are not compensable under current law.

Purple has filed an Application for Review of the Bureau's decision, and Commission staff currently is reviewing the filing. Your concerns will be considered as part of this review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julius Genachowski
Chairman