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September 5, 2008

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Hon. Tre Hargett, Chairman  
c/o Sharla Dillon, Docket & Records Manager  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Rulemaking to Establish Requirements and Funding Mechanism to Support  
Telecommunications Services for Individuals with Hearing Loss and Speech  
Disabilities  
Docket No. 05-00237

Dear Chairman Hargett:

MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services (collectively, "Verizon") submit these comments concerning the Authority's Proposed Telecommunications Rule Governing the Operations and Funding Mechanism for the Tennessee Relay Service, Chapter 122-4-14 (the "Proposed Rule"). Verizon has two concerns with the Proposed Rule: (i) its requirement that Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") providers contribute to the TRS fund; and (ii) its definition of "Gross Receipts."

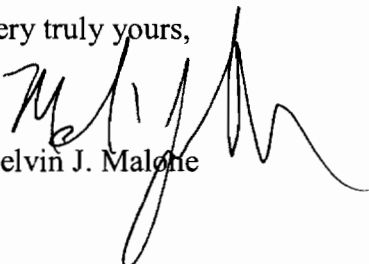
The Proposed Rule would define "Contributing Service Provider" as "any entity that offers a service that includes real-time voice communications that originate and terminate within the state," and specifically would include "IP based providers that process calls originating and terminating within the state." Verizon agrees with AT&T that the Authority lacks jurisdiction to require VoIP providers to contribute to the TRS fund. As a matter of state law, section 8(d) of the Competitive Cable and Video Services Act provides that the Authority is not "authorized to regulate the provision of retail interconnected voice over Internet protocol service." Verizon therefore respectfully submits that the definition of Contributing Service Provider should be modified to exclude VoIP providers.

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The Proposed Rule would define "Gross Receipts" to mean "revenue, for services provided subject to Tennessee sales and use tax." Verizon agrees with AT&T's comments on this issue and supports AT&T's proposed modification.

Very truly yours,

  
Melvin J. Malone

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