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Cleveland Black Deaf Advocates

P.O. Box 18673 Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
Non-profit since 1981

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JAN 21 2009

INVESTIGATION DIVISION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

PUCO

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James Cherry,
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Charles Williams
Program Chair

Charles Williams,
Organization Liaison

Junior Lee Doughty,
Sergeant-at-Arms

Elizabeth Blackmer, Chairperson
PUCO

Dear Chairwoman Blackmer

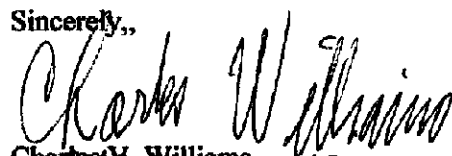
On behalf of the members of Cleveland Black Deaf Advocates, Chapter 2, I am writing to support PUCO awarding the contract for "711/Captel" in Ohio to Sprint. As a former Chairperson of the Sprint Consumer Advisory Board, we have done a fantastic job promoting and educating Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard-of-Hearing persons throughout our state about the benefits of this technology.

On a personal level, I can vouch for the benefits and ease it accords its owners. Ten percent of the general population has hearing losses and Captel would enable equal access and promote a sense of independence, especially for the numerous Senior Citizens with varying degrees of hearing loss who may not depend on American Sign Language as the primary mode of communication. Further, Hearing persons enjoy listening to conversations. Although my daughters and wife are fluent signers, they and were thrilled when I first used it.

On a corporate level, Sprint has an outstanding record of service to the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard-of-Hearing community. The Sprint professionals whom I know possess the integrity, cultural sensitivity, and business acumen to market and manage Captel.

I wholeheartedly recommend Sprint be awarded the contract and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,,



Charles V. Williams certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician _____ Date Processed JAN 23 2009