

August 29, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, *Improvements to Benchmarks and Related Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, WT Docket No. 15-285.
Joint Consensus Proposal – HAC Task Force Request for Information Published

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Competitive Carriers Association, CTIA, the Hearing Loss Association of America, the National Association of the Deaf, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Telecommunications Industry Association (collectively, the “Consensus Proposal Participants”) submit this *ex parte* letter to inform the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) of an important collaborative step toward exploring the shared goal of expanded hearing aid compatibility (“HAC”) compliance for wireless handsets.

Today, the Consensus Proposal Participants released a Request for Information (“RFI”) seeking a partner, facilitator, and convener (“Administrator”) to help manage and lead a consensus-based process to provide a report and recommendation to the Commission regarding the potential for 100 percent HAC compliance, pursuant to the Joint Consensus Proposal adopted in the Commission’s 2016 *Report and Order*.¹ The Consensus Proposal Participants are soliciting information to identify an Administrator with the technical, legal, and administrative expertise to help manage this consensus-based process, which will carefully weigh the goal of HAC for all wireless handsets with the need to encourage continued innovations that can benefit all consumers, including those who use hearing aid devices or cochlear implants.

Interested persons or organizations can find the RFI at <https://www.ctia.org/positions/documents/request-for-information-for-an-administrator-of-hearing-aid-compatibility-evaluation-task-force>, which includes relevant background information, a description of information sought, and instructions on how to respond. Please direct any questions or requests for clarification to HACTaskForce@ctia.org.

¹ See *Improvements to Benchmarks and Related Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9336 (2016) (“Order”).

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being electronically submitted into the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Murphy Thompson

Rebecca Murphy Thompson
EVP and General Counsel
Competitive Carriers Association

/s/ Barbara Kelley

Barbara Kelley
Executive Director
Hearing Loss Association of America

/s/ Scott K. Bergmann

Scott K. Bergmann
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
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/s/ Claude Stout

Claude Stout
Executive Director
**Telecommunications for the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing, Inc.**

/s/ Cinnamon Rogers

Cinnamon Rogers
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Telecommunications Industry Association

/s/ Howard A. Rosenblum

Howard A. Rosenblum
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of the Deaf