

May 16, 2016

**Via ECFS**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: NOTICE OF EX PARTE**

**WT Docket No. 15-285:** *Improvements to Benchmarks and Related Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets;*

**WT Docket No. 07-250:** *Amendment to the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 12, 2016, Rebecca Murphy Thompson and Courtney Neville with Competitive Carriers Association; Matt Gerst and Kara Romagnino with CTIA®; Linda Kozma-Spytek with Gallaudet University; Lise Hamlin with the Hearing Loss Association of America (via phone); Zainab Alkebsi with the National Association of the Deaf; Claude Stout of Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (via phone); and Avonne Bell and James Reid with the Telecommunications Industry Association (collectively, the Parties) met with representatives from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to discuss the above-referenced proceedings. Specifically, Chad Breckinridge, Eli Johnson, Michael Rowan, Joel Taubenblatt, Peter Trachtenberg, and Mary Claire York from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Bob Aldrich and Karen Peltz Strauss with the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, were in attendance.

During the meeting, the Parties discussed the previously submitted Consensus Proposal<sup>1</sup> and recent supplemental *ex parte* letter,<sup>2</sup> which describes for the Commission a process for evaluating achievability of 100% hearing aid compatibility (HAC) for wireless handsets. As described in the recent *ex parte* letter, the Parties noted that technology will naturally evolve as the process moves forward. The task force described in the *ex parte* letter must therefore be inclusive to fully review

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<sup>1</sup> See *Ex Parte* Letter from James Reid, Telecommunications Industry Association, Scott Bergmann, CTIA, Rebecca Murphy Thompson, Competitive Carriers Association, Anna Gilmore Hall, Hearing Loss Association of America, Claude Stout, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Howard A. Rosenblum, National Association of the Deaf, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WT Docket Nos. 07-250, 10-254 (filed Nov. 12, 2015) (Consensus Proposal).

<sup>2</sup> *Ex Parte* Letter from James Reid, Telecommunications Industry Association, Scott Bergmann, CTIA, Rebecca Murphy Thompson, Competitive Carriers Association, Anna Gilmore Hall, Hearing Loss Association of America, Claude Stout, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Howard A. Rosenblum, National Association of the Deaf, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WT Docket Nos. 07-250, 10-254 (filed Apr. 21, 2016) (April letter).

technical standards and adequately respond to consumers' needs, while continuing to balance the need for ongoing innovation.

The Parties have worked together for many years to ensure that wireless handsets are accessible to and usable by all consumers. We commend the Commission for its attention to achieving the goal of hearing aid compatibility for all wireless handsets and the need to encourage continued innovations that benefit all consumers, including those who use hearing aid devices. We look forward to ongoing collaboration on this important issue.

This *ex parte* notification is being filed electronically with your office pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Murphy Thompson  
EVP & General Counsel  
Competitive Carriers Association

Matthew Gerst  
Director, Regulatory Affairs  
CTIA®

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Co-Director, Rehabilitation Engineering  
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James Reid  
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cc (via email): Bob Aldrich  
Chad Breckinridge  
Eli Johnson  
Michael Rowan  
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Joel Taubenblatt  
Peter Trachtenberg  
Mary Claire York