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February 15, 2002

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***Ex Parte* Presentation Report; WT Docket No. 01-309;
Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones**

Dear Mr. Caton:

This is to report that an oral *ex parte* presentation was made in the above-referenced matter to the Commission's Staff on February 14, 2001.

Presenter: **Hearing Industries Association ("HIA")**, represented by
David E. Woodbury, Director of Government Relations
Ronald Scicluna, Etymotic Research
Michael Sacha, Starkey Laboratories, Inc.
Peter Tannenwald, Counsel
Loretta J. Garcia, Counsel

FCC Staff: **Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**
Blaise Scinto
Mindy Littell
Patrick Forster

HIA noted that it filed both initial and reply comments in this proceeding. The presentation covered some of the material in the written comments. In addition, HIA demonstrated hearing aid devices and explained how these devices operate. HIA explained differences among types of hearing aids, including standardized behind-the-ear, customized in-the-ear and completely-in-the-canal models. It pointed out the various components of hearing aids, which components have been modified to improve immunity to interference, and the available shielding techniques and manufacturing problems and pitfalls that have been and remain to be overcome.

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Photographs of the hearing aids are attached to this ex parte letter, which show the following: 1. small size of components and a typical case configuration for in-the-ear and completely-in-the-canal models; 2. behind-the-ear component arrangement and some attempted shielding techniques applied to the case; 3. very small components and one of the smallest in-the-ear models; 4. an add-on device for directionalizing cellphone antenna radiation -- such a device can also be built into the handset.

HIA also discussed developments in wireless telephone handset antenna technology and demonstrated an antenna device that directionalizes the signal away from the head, thereby significantly reducing both interference to hearing aids and radiation absorbed by the human body. See photograph number 4.

HIA committed to continue efforts to resolve interference problems but observed that only the hearing aid industry, and not the handset industry, has met the goal established several years ago by each industry to achieve a 15 decibel improvement in its products. HIA discussed the problems with obtaining repeatable measurement results under the ANSI C63.19 standard, especially with increasingly popular custom-shaped in-the-ear and completely-in-the-canal hearing aid models. It was further noted that HIA had voted against adoption of the ANSI standard and that the current version was developed to gain a greater understanding regarding measurement dynamics. There is currently too great an error rate in determining categorization within the standard to permit accurate labeling.

Respectfully submitted,



Loretta J. Garcia
Counsel for the Hearing Industries
Association

cc: Mindy Littel, Esq.
Blaise Scinto, Esq.
Mr. Patrick Forster
Qualex International
Mr. David E. Woodbury
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(all by electronic mail)