

CTIA

Building The Wireless Future™
Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association

May 8, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation
WT Docket No. 01-309**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 7, 2003, the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (“CTIA”), represented by Diane Cornell, Vice President for Regulatory Affairs spoke on the phone with Joel Taubenblatt, the Deputy Division Chief of the Policy Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The parties discussed the FCC’s ongoing proceeding regarding hearing aid compatibility. Specifically, CTIA discussed efforts underway to make publicly available additional information about wireless phones on the market today that would be useful to consumers with hearing aids in evaluating which digital phones would work best with their hearing aid. This information would include any currently available digital wireless phones that may provide T-coil coupling capability, currently available digital wireless phones that may provide for lower levels of radio frequency interference, and any available accessory options that work effectively with hearing aids.

CTIA also discussed the wireless industry’s belief that a focused effort would be required to validate the ANSI C63.19 hearing aid compatibility standard and to develop an inductive coupling standard for digital wireless phones, in light of the fact that one does not exist today. Ideally, this effort would include hearing aid industry participation.



Finally, CTIA reiterated its position that consumers would not be well served overall if the wireless exemption granted in the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act was lifted, or if a “one-size-fits-all” solution was imposed. CTIA emphasized, however, that alternative approaches can help achieve the goal of enabling consumers with hearing aids to have effective options for using digital phones that provide a genuinely successful end-user experience.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules, an original and one copy of this letter is being filed with your office. If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Diane Cornell

Diane Cornell

cc: Joel Taubenblatt

