

CTIA

Building The Wireless Future™
Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association

July 8, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Manner
Senior Counsel to Commissioner Abernathy
Room 8-B115
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Ms. Manner:

In response to your telephone inquiry yesterday, CTIA provides the following information relevant to the above-captioned proceeding. You inquired about what options would be available to a consumer with a hearing aid who lived in a rural area with a limited choice of carriers to purchase a handset from a source other than their local carrier, if their local carrier didn't offer a handset that included the hearing aid compatibility features they desired.

The Commission's recent Eighth Annual Competition Report found that 95% of the U.S. population has access to three or more wireless carriers; in other words, only 5% of the U.S. population has access to two or fewer wireless carriers. If a consumer with a hearing aid happened to live in one of those few areas where they had a relatively limited choice of wireless carriers, they would have several options to obtain a handset that would meet their needs. First, assuming the wireless carriers serving their area have roaming agreements with a carrier with a national footprint, it is likely that the local carriers could obtain a handset from their partner carrier that could be easily configured to work on their network. Second, many manufacturers offer handset sales directly from their website. At least one of these websites includes TracFone, a wireless reseller, as one of the carriers using the manufacturer's handsets. TracFone advertises on its website that its service works everywhere, and thus consumers in any location have the option to obtain a handset and service from TracFone.



Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, and the specific Sunshine period exemptions set forth in Sections 1.1203 (a)(1) and 1.1204 (a)(10)(iii), this letter is being electronically filed with your office. If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Diane Cornell

Diane Cornell

cc: Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

