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July 23, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice

Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets, WT Docket No. 07-250; Section 68.4 of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones, WT Docket No. 01-309

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday July 20, 2010, Rebecca Schwartz, TIA; Praveen Goyal, RIM; Robert Morse, Wilkinson, Barker, & Knauer, on behalf of RIM; Shelly Blakeney, T-Mobile; Katie Peters, Motorola; and Cathy Massey, Clearwire, representing the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA); as well as Matt Gerst and Scott Bergman, representing CTIA; met with Louis Peraertz, Acting Legal Advisor, Wireless, International, and Public Safety for Commissioner Clyburn. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules apply to new technologies and proposed modifications to the *de minimus* rule.

During this meeting, TIA communicated that modifying the *de minimus* rule could impair manufacturers' ability to innovate, as the exception is critical to the industry's ability to promote new technologies and determine whether consumer demand warrants a more expansive deployment. Allowing manufacturers to operate under the exception will not bar products covered by the rule from becoming hearing aid compatible, as in the case of the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) standard's voluntary movement into non-exemption. In correlation to adding new technologies to their portfolios, manufacturers use the exemption to diminish its selection of outdated technologies. The exception makes certain that HAC regulatory obligations do not prevent emerging technologies from being able to best develop products by forcing manufacturers to commit resources to outmoded technologies.

TIA also discussed the option of “powering down” of GSM devices in the 1900 MHz band and noted that another solution is to allow GSM devices that operate in this band to instead use an M2 rating.<sup>1</sup> This would reduce the risk of dropped calls due to lower total radio power (TRP) levels. Further, the “powering down” option may be a viable option for other bands with similar technical interference problems.

Finally, TIA noted that manufacturers sell niche phones to retailers or directly to the public that offer accessibility features, such as screen readers.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, a copy of this submission is being provided to the meeting attendees. Please contact the undersigned with any questions in connection with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rebecca Schwartz

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Rebecca Schwartz

cc:  
Louis Peraertz

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<sup>1</sup> See ex parte letter from Paul Margie, Counsel for Apple Inc. to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, WT Docket No. 07-250 (filed Jul. 9, 2010).