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September 3, 2013

Kris Monteith
Acting Bureau Chief
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply to the Coalition of E-Reader Manufacturers' Petition for Waiver from CVAA
Accessibility Requirements, CG Docket No. 10-213

Dear. Ms. Monteith:

I am a blind person, and a computer programmer for a large hospital in New York City. I am an avid reader, and would like to have access to as many books as possible, both for personal reading and for professional development.

I oppose granting a waiver so that e-readers need not be accessible. Making e-readers accessible seems pretty simple to me, if manufacturers consider accessibility as part of the basic design, and make all content available through audio output to a speaker or earphone.

I see how much my sister enjoys her Kindle. I also see many Kindle books available from my local library. If it were accessible to me, I'd happily buy a Kindle of my own, or some other e-reader, and join the millions of people reading with them. It's rather insulting that e-reader manufacturers think so little of me as a potential customer that they will petition so as not to have to deal with me.

I am also concerned that schools are using inaccessible e-readers. How can a blind student be educated on an equal footing with his or her sighted peers, if he or she can't use the same materials?

I strongly urge the FCC not to grant a waiver of e-reader accessibility. It denies me access to a device I could use, and it encourages others to perpetuate inaccessibility.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Tracy Carcione