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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 deaf-blind graduate student studying to become a Licensed and Certified Professional Counselor. Because of my dual disabilities, having books that are accessible to me is extremely important. As I begin the fall semester, I rely on my school, Towson University, to provide me with my textbooks in an accessible format so that I can use my screen reader. I also enjoy listening to books for pleasure. I had been a voracious reader prior to my hearing and vision loss and my disabilities have not stopped my love of reading or learning.

I strongly oppose the Petition for Waiver submitted by the Coalition of E-Reader Manufacturers', requesting that e-readers be exempt from the Twenty First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA).

Since Apple came out with their products in 2006, I have wondered, when they will make their e-reader accessible to the blind. Apple says their e-reader is accessible; but only to people with steady jobs and not students or low-income families. In addition, to make the e-reader accessible, I would have to download a free Kindle App. This is all very frustrating. It is not expensive to design an accessible e-reader when it starts at the design stage. The key components include making it audible, producing an audio output like with speakers or a phone jack. These are the basic requirements. The Coalition's statement that creating an accessible e-reader is costly to re-design is false. Accessibility is cost-effective when done at the outset. Finally, I want to be a consumer of goods and services equal to my sighted contemporaries. I am tired of feeling like a second-class citizen.

In one of my graduate counseling class last fall the professor asked us to work in pairs and define some terms from the chapters he had assigned us to read. My partner took out her Ipad on which she had downloaded the textbook and she typed in the terms in a

“find” search box and then proceeded to read all about that term. I thought “wow”. I wish I had access to something like that.

I strongly urge the FCC to reject the Coalition’s petition and uphold the spirit of the CVAA. E-readers and the ACS features found in that equipment must be made accessible and granting a waiver would perpetuate the digital divide and discrimination in the marketplace that I face every day.

Sincerely,

Janice Toothman