August 29, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Joint Consensus Proposal – HAC Task Force Request for Information Published

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Competitive Carriers Association, CTIA, the Hearing Loss Association of America, the National Association of the Deaf, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Telecommunications Industry Association (collectively, the “Consensus Proposal Participants”) submit this ex parte letter to inform the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) of an important collaborative step toward exploring the shared goal of expanded hearing aid compatibility (“HAC”) compliance for wireless handsets.

Today, the Consensus Proposal Participants released a Request for Information (“RFI”) seeking a partner, facilitator, and convener (“Administrator”) to help manage and lead a consensus-based process to provide a report and recommendation to the Commission regarding the potential for 100 percent HAC compliance, pursuant to the Joint Consensus Proposal adopted in the Commission’s 2016 Report and Order.1 The Consensus Proposal Participants are soliciting information to identify an Administrator with the technical, legal, and administrative expertise to help manage this consensus-based process, which will carefully weigh the goal of HAC for all wireless handsets with the need to encourage continued innovations that can benefit all consumers, including those who use hearing aid devices or cochlear implants.

Interested persons or organizations can find the RFI at https://www.ctia.org/positions/documents/request-for-information-for-an-administrator-of-hearing-aid-compatibility-evaluation-task-force, which includes relevant background information, a description of information sought, and instructions on how to respond. Please direct any questions or requests for clarification to HACTaskForce@ctia.org.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being electronically submitted into the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Murphy Thompson
Rebecca Murphy Thompson
EVP and General Counsel
Competitive Carriers Association

/s/ Barbara Kelley
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Executive Director
Hearing Loss Association of America

/s/ Scott K. Bergmann
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Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
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/s/ Claude Stout
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Executive Director
Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

/s/ Cinnamon Rogers
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Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
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/s/ Howard A. Rosenblum
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Chief Executive Officer
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