

August 29, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

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

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation, *Improvements to Benchmarks and Related Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, WT Docket No. 15-285.  
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*.<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:HACTaskForce@ctia.org).

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<sup>1</sup> See *Improvements to Benchmarks and Related Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9336 (2016) (“Order”).

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  
Barbara Kelley  
Executive Director  
**Hearing Loss Association of America**

/s/ Scott K. Bergmann  
Scott K. Bergmann  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
**CTIA**

/s/ Claude Stout  
Claude Stout  
Executive Director  
**Telecommunications for the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing, Inc.**

/s/ Cinnamon Rogers  
Cinnamon Rogers  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs  
**Telecommunications Industry Association**

/s/ Howard A. Rosenblum  
Howard A. Rosenblum  
Chief Executive Officer  
**National Association of the Deaf**