

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

*Re: Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets; Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones; Petition of American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee C63 (EMC)ANSI ASC C63®; WT Docket No. 07-250.*

I support today's Report and Order because it makes great advances towards improving the access to digital mobile wireless phones by those Americans who use hearing aids. It is essential that the rights of those with hearing impairments always remain in the forefront of our decisions, so I'm pleased that we have taken to heart our obligations to address such an important public interest issue.

In addition to adopting new benchmarks and deadlines through 2011 for hearing aid compatible handsets, it is significant that we also adopt today a new product refresh requirement for manufacturers, as well as a requirement for differing handset functionality levels for service providers. Together, these requirements will greatly improve the accessibility to and available options for digital wireless telecommunications by those with hearing impairments.

I would like to thank the extraordinary efforts of the hearing aid community, consumer advocacy groups and those in industry that worked diligently to develop the recommendations in the Joint Consensus Plan – the recommendations from which we formulated core aspects of our order. I am also pleased that we have incorporated a further review of our hearing aid requirements in the second half of 2010, and I look forward to tracking the progress of our decision and its positive impact on the hearing impaired community over the upcoming years.