

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

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

Today's item provides another example of the importance of input from consumers, especially those who may be most dependent on new technologies for education, work, or help in an emergency. Government's best work is done through cooperation and collaboration, whether public-private partnerships or, as in this case, through recommendations of the Joint Consensus Plan. Accordingly, I am pleased to vote for today's item, which provides important clarifications and modifications to the Commission's hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules. The recommendations of the Joint Consensus Plan, upon which these rules are based, are the result of a cooperative effort by representatives of wireless service providers and device manufacturers, as well as those representing consumers with hearing loss, especially the Hearing Loss Association of America and Gallaudet University. These parties have the best knowledge, both of the needs of the hearing impaired and of the technologies that can help meet those needs. Following their recommendations is a victory for good policymaking.

As the Commission continues to consider the needs of consumers with hearing loss, I encourage the continued involvement of all parties involved in crafting the Joint Consensus Plan. Going forward, for example, the Commission must consider appropriate rules for multi-band devices when HAC standards have not been developed for all bands in which such devices operate. I value the input of those involved in this process and anticipate that future rules, like those adopted today, will effectively serve consumers with hearing loss.