

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

*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.*

I would like to thank my fellow commissioners for taking the time to work with me to ensure that this order correctly captures the requests of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Joint Consensus Working Group. I commend this group, comprised of organizations representing the interests of consumers with hearing loss, wireless carriers and handset manufacturers, for its hard work on these important issues. In adopting the Joint Consensus Plan, the Commission is not only advancing the goals established by Congress in the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act, we are also recognizing the working group's expertise and rewarding its dedication. Common sense has prevailed.

History has taught us time and time again that government is no match for the private sector. Collaborative partnerships are far better equipped to quickly resolve technical challenges and satisfy consumer demand than government mandates. This is especially true at a time when wireless technologies are evolving so rapidly. For instance, I question the wisdom in seeking to impose additional regulations on voice-based capabilities given the surge toward broadband, data-based applications, which may ultimately be of greater value to Americans with hearing loss.

Given the ongoing nature of this proceeding, I am hopeful that the working group will continue its efforts, and will expand to include new entrants to the manufacturing and carrier industries. We must all work together to ensure that consumers with hearing loss can improve their lives and transform their futures through use of the innovative products and services developed and offered by the wireless marketplace.