ORIGINAL

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules	)	RM No. 8658
Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones	)	

RECEIVED

DEC 8 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

CC: E. Wendy Austries
Policy Division
Room 3-B1-101

COMMENTS OF GENE A. BECHTEL

1. My interest in the captioned matter stems from a lifelong experience with hearing loss, which is hereditary and shared with some of my children and others in the larger family on my mother's side. I have previously participated in rulemaking proceedings regarding Section 255 of the Communications Act and difficulties with digital telephones.

2. The use of an induction coil in analog telephones is an invaluable resource for the hearing impaired. I have this in my office and at home, and use it constantly. Without it, I cannot conduct telephone conversations except for the use of a speakerphone in order to hear the other parties which is loud at my end and disturbing to many persons on the other end of the conversation because of the sound they hear from my use of a speakerphone.

3. I travel a good deal, both in the practice of law and also for personal reasons. As the Commission is no doubt aware, the problems of the hearing impaired are enormously worsened when a person travels. There is background noise in airports, inside

No. of Copies rec'd 0+4
List ABCDE

the automobile while driving, at pay phones along the highway or in the lobby of a busy hotel. Very few hotel rooms have phones with induction coils.

4. An ideal solution is to have a cordless telephone which can be used by finding a location where the background noise is eliminated, such as parking your car on a quiet street, making a call from an uncrowded part of the hotel lobby or using your cordless phone in hotel room, etc. Unfortunately, digital telephones which work in a satisfactory manner for an analog hearing aid are few and far between. For a long time, I used one of the few Ericsson models that worked reasonably well, but its volume was not sufficient. I am now trying another model, which is a little bit better. However, none of the numerous models I have tried matches the help I obtain from an analog telephone containing an induction coil.

4. Thank you for the many ways in which the Commission has been of assistance to the hearing impaired, and I hope the agency can be instrumental in advancing digital telephone facilities and services to meet the needs described above.

Sincerely,

Gene A. Bechtel

Bechtel & Cole, Chartered
Suite 250, 1901 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone 202-833-4190
Telecopier 202-833-3084

December 8, 2000