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**Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Department of Health and Human Services
Rm 1-23
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, MD 20857**

January 5, 2006

Gentle People;

I have suffered a severe hearing loss since WW2.

In that time, I have owned (VA and purchased) nearly 60 hearing aids and have had similar exposure to those who sell hearing aids -- in the USA and other countries. I have had personal interactions with hard of hearing entities and literally thousands of hard of hearing people .

I have concluded, after these many years of heavy involvement, that the USA is one of the worst (if not the worst) of all civilized countries to live in with this affliction.

Your refusal to accept Dr. Killion's petition allowing hearing aids to be sold over the counter is one more inconsiderate action that furthers the damage to these so afflicted people.

I see no point in illustrating any of Killion's comments that were well pointed out and are completely true.

There is little more that might be construed from your decision than your apparent readiness to accept lobbying procedures from those who sell hearing aids.

Either that, or it was a lack of concern combined with ignorance based upon data provided by those who sell.

It isn't just a shame but borders on sinful. Clearly, you do not understand the negative effect this affliction has on the lives of many millions in the USA.

Sincerely,

Warren T. Hanna Dir. HOH

CC: Mead C. Killion, Ph.D. Sc.D.(hon.) President, Etymotic Research, Inc. Adjunct Professor of Audiology, Northwestern University Visiting Professor of Audiology, Rush University Adjunct Professor of Audiology, Graduate School of the City University of New York

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