I understand that a cohilition of E-reader manufacturers has requested a waiver from the FCC of their responsibility to make their products usable by blind people.

I am blind, and most of my sighted friends use E-readers not only to read books, but to look things up on the internet, explore lists of books and purchase E-books, to discuss books with groups of friends, to recommend books to friends, and even to loan or share books with each other. I cannot do any of this because the E-readers are not accessible to me.

Many of my friends meet for book discussions, usually of books newly on the market. Most use E-readers and some use print books from the library to read the selections, but I am almost always left out altogether because the Library for the Blind hasn’t produced the book on audio yet and most likely will take at least a year to do so, if ever.

I am told that the E-reader manufacturers are saying their products are not intended for ACS or that those features are incidental and ancillary. That claim is ridiculous. If they were to remove the web browsers and social media features, none of my sighted friends would use or purchase another one of their products or recommend their products to other people.

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