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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

*Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:*

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely, *Melvin Roof*

*Sheriff of Putnam Co. Mo*

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MURRAY COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE  
SULPHUR, OK. 73086  
(405) 622-5124

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 29, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phone. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciated the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important

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security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security..

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EM Bristol". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Sheriff E. M. Bristol

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**PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

P.O. BOX 910 • TUCSON, ARIZONA 85702

PHONE (602) 741-4600 • FAX (602) 741-4622

AUG 1 1994

CLARENCE W. DUPNIK, SHERIFF • STANLEY L. CHESKE, CHIEF DEPUTY

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Please accept this letter as our formal opposition to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities. The Pima County Adult Detention Centers house in excess of 1100 prisoners, who have been found in the eyes of the Courts to present a clear and present danger to society. Prior to the installation of our inmate phone system, the inmates were constantly abusing the phone system to harass, threaten and continue their criminal activity. Our facilities were continually receiving calls from citizens as well as businesses who were being subjected to various schemes and intimidations that were possible through 3rd party calling or other behaviors beyond our control. By the installation of our enhanced system, the inmates fraudulent activity has been eliminated and we are able to protect private citizens (especially victims) from the harassment and abuse of our inmate population.

Our system does not put an unfair burden on the inmate or his/her family, as the rate schedule (as per our RPP) is strictly regulated. All profits from the inmate phone system are used to directly support inmate programs that would not be possible without this subsidy. As an example, an entire teacher and computer based educational system for inmates has been funded by this program.

Please do not lose sight of the fact that we are talking about inmates, the majority of which have been charged and/or convicted of serious crimes against society. Our phone system is an integral part of our security and control system and provides a buffer of protection to our community and the victims of criminal activity. An on-going priority of ours has always been to ensure that we provide the inmates with a good system at a fair price and that all proceeds are returned to the inmate population through rehabilitation programs. We can assure you, that the system is not abusive to anyone, especially the inmates or their families.

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Page 2

BPP is not a good idea, and it would seriously jeopardize the security of our facility and our community. We urge you to not to adopt regulations that hamper our ability to protect our citizens and our staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Alese', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Captain John A. Alese  
Administration Div. Commander

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

***Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:***

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

John E. Allen,  
Calhoun County Sheriff

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**WILLIAMS COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

218 West Bryan Street  
Bryan, Ohio 43506

**ALAN L. WORD, SHERIFF**

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

419-636-3151

July 28, 1994

**The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference**

**Dear Chairman Hundt:**

**I am opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.**

**We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls for our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our responsibility to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to use and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls. Criminal behavior with the phones will be uncontrollable.**

**We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Inmate phone providers evolved as a result of such uncontrolled criminal activity. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.**

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmates families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriff or Warden does not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs or Wardens enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs and Wardens are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable. BPP is clearly an over reaction. Setting ceilings would be more responsible legislation.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility. We urge you not to adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Approving such legislation as BPP as currently written will also enable such inmate advocate groups to pursue other legislative agendas that exceed the intent of current case law, prisoner rights as guaranteed by our forefathers in the constitution and would encourage you to ignore what the professionals in the corrections field need to protect the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Williams County Sheriff's Department

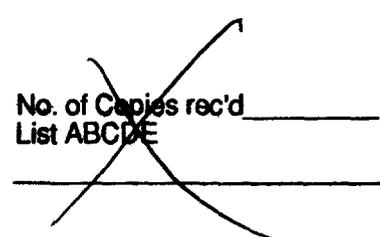


Alan L. Word,  
Sheriff

ALW/ksh

cc: **The Honorable James H. Quello**  
**The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong**  
**The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett**  
**The Honorable Susan Ness**  
**The Honorable Congressman Paul E. Gilmore**  
**The Honorable Senator Howard Metzenbaum**  
**APCC Inmate Phone Service Providers Task Force**

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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

***Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:***

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
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- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

*Charles P. Miller*

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WILLIAM C. COLLINS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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July 27, 1994

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC Docket #92-77, Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the billed party preference proposal as it pertains to jail and prison telephone systems.

I write from the perspective of an attorney who has worked with both jail and prison administrators for over two decades. I am also editor of the *Correctional Law Reporter*, a periodical which addresses legal issues of concern to those working in corrections. This letter reflects my personal views. It is not written on behalf of a client.

If the Commission's goal is to *reduce* the ability of inmates and their friends and families to communicate by telephone, billed party preference is an excellent step. Calls in some cases may become cheaper because of billed party preference. However, billed party preference will also produce a combination of reduced telephone security and increased expenses to the institution which will lead inevitably to sharp cutbacks in the numbers of phones available to inmates and the circumstances under which inmates are allowed to make telephone calls. If the Commission's goal is to get rid of price-gouging, while still encouraging the benefits of continued close communication between inmates and those on the outside, then some other form of price regulation is the solution, not billed party preference.

I am aware of no court decisions which would permit inmates to successfully argue that correctional institutions have any constitutional obligation to provide the comparatively easy access to telephones which commonly exists in institutions today. Beyond very minimal levels, the extent to which inmates are allowed to make telephone calls is within the discretion of the institution.

The primary concern of men and women who run jails and prisons is security. Security often conflicts with other legitimate concerns, such as allowing inmates to maintain ties with their families. One might hope that institutions would implement procedures which would accommodate both such sometimes conflicting goals, but the fact of the matter is that often they do not. One need look no further than the comparatively limited use of contact visiting in jails to recognize this point. If accommodation is going to increase expenses or leave uncertainty about security concerns, the choice will be security, not accommodation, even if those security concerns are sometimes exaggerated.

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(206) 754-9205

P.O. BOX 2316, OLYMPIA, WA 98507-2316

Billed Party Preference - 2

The first institutional response to a potential security breach is to eliminate it. If elimination is not possible, then the response is to control and monitor the potential problem area as closely as possible, which costs money. Present inmate telephone systems allow the institution to maintain strong security controls over inmate telephone calls while simultaneously generating revenue which eliminates the need to pay for telephone system related expenses from other resources. This combination of security plus revenue permitted the dramatic expansion of inmate telephone access which corrections has seen over the last few years.

Billed party preference threatens both of the legs, security and revenue, on which current inmate telephone access stands. Some inmates abuse the telephone privilege, just as some companies apparently abuse their rate setting powers. There is no doubt that inmates have used telephones to further criminal activity. There is no doubt that inmates are physically hard on telephones, resulting in increased maintenance costs. There is no doubt that present inmate phone systems can provide greater security protections than would be available through billed party preference. There is also no doubt that billed party preference will deprive the institution of moneys which not only pay for maintaining the phone system but also pay for a variety of other amenities for inmates which will at least decrease, if not disappear, if jails can no longer share in the reasonable profits from an inmate telephone system.

In a perfect world, the response of correctional administrators to a billed party preference rule might be to find alternative ways to protect against inmate phone abuse and to find alternative sources of revenue to pay the costs generated by the enhanced security needs, to pay to continue to maintain a phone system readily accessible to inmates, and to pay for the other inmate benefits now supported by telephone revenues. But the world isn't perfect, and most institutions won't -- or can't -- make this sort of response. They instead will respond to the combined realities of increased security and loss of revenue by simply taking out the inmate phone systems currently in place.

I know neither the Commission nor the advocates for billed party preference intend to reduce inmate telephone access. I also know that most correctional administrators are pleased with the benefits that come from inmates being able to have easy access to telephones. However, I am also convinced that the unintended consequence of applying a billed party preference rule to inmate telephone systems will be to turn back the clock on inmate telephone access by twenty years to a time when inmate telephone calls were the exception, not the rule.

I urge the Commission not to apply a billed party preference rule to inmate telephone systems, but rather to address the problem of price gouging through other means.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Collins  
Attorney at Law

# NORTH AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Authorized  
Operating  
States

Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Kansas  
Louisiana  
Michigan  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Oklahoma  
Ohio  
Pennsylvania  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Washington DC

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

North American Communications (NAC) opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

NAC has analyzed the security and administration needs at our jail facilities and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from the facilities to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. NAC cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. We have discovered that most live operators are not trained to handle inmates calls.

NAC has also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service. Without inmate phones, the morale of the inmates will be devastated. The tension will aspire to an alarming proportion in an already controlled environment thus making the day-to-day operations more difficult for facility administrators.

Furthermore, NAC is sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern, however do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls, and let the officials enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts.

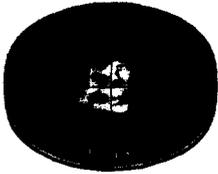
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In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facilities. NAC urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions. NAC has a responsibility to the public and as a small growing minority company this would only create more obstacles for us to competitive in the telecommunications industry

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Campbell Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Troy Campbell Sr.  
President, North American Communications  
101 W. 11th Street, Suite 910  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105



W. G. "QUINT" OVERTON, Sheriff

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA 24151**

July 29, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference  
CC Docket No 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Sheriff of Franklin County, Virginia, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Billed Party Preference (BPP) Rule which is currently before the Federal Communications Commission, or any other Rule or restriction which would alter the services provided to us by our inmate telephone service providers.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls and use. This equipment helps prevent fraud, harrassing calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. This equipment was provided to us, free of charge, by the telephone service provider that is under contract with the county jail. This equipment is also upgraded and maintained by the same telephone service provider -- free of charge. The telephone service provides an asset which is self-supporting, self-sufficient and worry-free; while at the same time provides funds back to the jail to be used to provide inmates and facilities with a means to purchase educational, spiritual, and recreational enhancements to their inmate activities programs. The inmate phone system is a vital tool to the correctional staff which allows inmates to maintain close contact with their families and friends and at the same time provides staff with an irreplaceable management tool.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions-- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. W. Overton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "O".

Sheriff W. W. Overton  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office & Jail

RONALD J. DELANO  
**Sheriff**



127 East Fairview, P.O. Box 230  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-443-3679

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THOMAS M. KORMANIK  
Chief  
Deputy Sheriff

WILBERT H. BEACHY, III  
Solicitor

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference: CC Docket No. 92-77

We at the Somerset County Jail are concerned about the proposed Billed Party Preference for long distance telephone calls. There are three particular areas that will be affected to our detriment, namely

1. We will lose blocking control of our inmate phone calls.
2. We will lose a revenue stream and the inmate family phone costs could go up.
3. The potential for fraud will creep back into the system.

Along with these major concerns, we also see a problem with who is going to pay for all of this.

We eagerly oppose the Billed Party Preference and encourage the Federal Communications Commission to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald J. DeLano".

Ronald J. DeLano,  
Sheriff|Warden  
Somerset County Jail

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List ABCDE



WILLIAM D. SLEEPER  
County Administrator

# Halifax County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 786  
Halifax, Va. 24558-0786  
Telephone (804) 476-2141  
Fax (804) 476-4241

July 29, 1994

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SUPERVISORS  
J. C. SATTERFIELD, JR.  
Chairman  
RUTH H. NEAL  
Vice Chairman  
R. E. ABBOTT  
W. E. COLEMAN  
H. W. MATTHEWS  
J. K. McKINNEY  
T. E. WEST

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference  
CC Docket # 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write on behalf of the Halifax County, Virginia Board of Supervisors to oppose the Billed Party Preference (BPP) proposal. After discussions with the Sheriff of Halifax County who operates the Halifax County Jail, it is our belief that BPP will have a detrimental impact on the ability of the County to provide its inmates reasonable access to telephone service, and the ability of the County to control harassing or intimidating calls. Further, there is a potential loss of revenue which benefits inmates.

The County entered into a contract to provide inmate telephone service several years ago. Prior to that time, only a single telephone was available for inmates, and inmates had to be taken one (1) at a time to the phone room by a Correctional Officer. The inmate telephone system allowed for the installation of several additional telephones, thus increasing inmate access to outside communications. As our inmate population has increased over the years to where we now house 60-70 inmates on an average day, the multiple telephone capability has certainly been beneficial. Further, a Correctional Officer is no longer required to escort an inmate to the telephone room, thereby freeing that Officer for other duties.

Should Billed Party Preference be approved, the Sheriff could lose the ability to utilize number blocking to prevent inmates from placing harassing or intimidating calls to Judges, attorneys, witnesses, or victims.

The revenue generated by the inmate telephone system is utilized by the Sheriff to benefit the inmates. State and local funding for Jail operations is limited, with this funding providing the necessities for the inmates. The revenue generated by the inmate telephone

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**Chairman Hundt**

**Page 2**

**July 29, 1994**

system does not go into the County's General Fund. Rather, it is used for purchases that return to the inmates in the form of recreational activities, reading materials, and other such items that quite possibly could not be provided were it not for this revenue. Virginia statutes mandate that revenues from this type of service be so utilized.

We believe that the rate structure with our existing inmate telephone system is fair and reasonable. In the several years we have had this system, there has only been one (1) complaint of an excessive charge. This complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. The fact that there has been only one (1) complaint out of the hundreds of calls is a clear indication that the rate structure is reasonable.

On behalf of Halifax County, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to disapprove the Billed Party Preference proposal. I believe the adverse impacts of Billed Party Preference far outweigh any benefit.

Halifax County appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



**Gerald V. Lovelace**  
**Assistant County Administrator for Operations**

GVL:sb

cc: **The Honorable James H. Quello**  
**The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett**  
**The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong**  
**The Honorable Susan Ness**



FOR FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Rex E. Southwick  
Sheriff of Jefferson County

Phone (402) 729-2284

Fairbury, Nebraska 68352

July 27, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulations.

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us a very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- \* It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- \* Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.

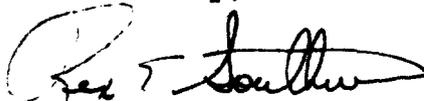
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- \* Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result; fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- \* The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. This costs everyone!
- \* Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate cells, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members of even the victims of their crimes.
- \* Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Rex E. Southwick,  
Sheriff  
Jefferson County, Nebraska

RES:vsb



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*Carl R. Griffith, Jr.*  
*Sheriff, Jefferson County, Texas*

*Deputy Chiefs*  
*Kenneth A. Duhon - Law Enforcement & Employee Relations*  
*Harry Lewis - Detention & Legal Advisor*

*P. O. Box 2950*  
*Beaumont, Texas 77704*  
*(409) 835-8441*

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Page 2  
July 28, 1994

The inmate phone system also allows us to block certain telephone numbers from being called from the facility over the inmate phone lines. This is important when an inmate obtains the phone numbers of witnesses, victims or victim's relatives, and makes threats and harassing telephone calls.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceiling on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Harry Lewis  
Deputy Chief  
Jefferson County Sheriff Department  
P. O. Box 2950  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

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July 20, 1994

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

*Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:*

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion. an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Jack Armstrong  
Sheriff Sherman Co.  
Goodland Texas

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ELKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT  
316-697-2151

# Sheriff Loren W. Youngers

ADMINISTRATOR  
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER  
P. O. BOX 801  
ELKHART, KANSAS 67950



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.  
316-697-4313

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The Honorable Reed E. Hunt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

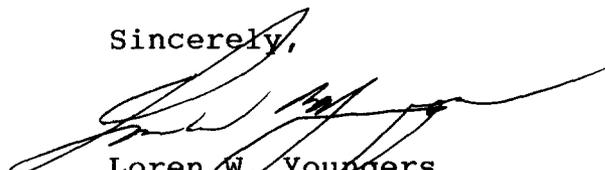
RE: Billed Party Preference;  
CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman:

I am the Sheriff of a relatively small County and thus a smaller jail then some. Even with this I am responsible for those who reside in that facility. The "Billed Party Preference" is going cause a great deal of problems in maintaining control of what phone calls are made from the jail. As it is now we can block any out going calls thus we are able to lend some protection to innocent victims and witnesses that could be intimidated by their aggressors. The " Billed Party Preference" will not allow this protection.

This is but one of many problems this will create. I hope you will consider all the perimeters before you make a decision on this. At least consider adding an amendment so as to make Jails and Correctional Facilities exempt from the "Billed Party Preference".

Sincerely,



Loren W. Youngers  
Sheriff

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello  
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
The Honorable Susan Ness

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July 20, 1994

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Sincerely,

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Sheriff

Janet J. Lee

P.O. BOX 127  
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HOWARD, KS 67349

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