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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,

MARVIN L. VANHAAFTEN
MARION COUNTY SHERIFF
COURTHOUSE
KNOXVILLE, IOWA 50138

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August 29, 1994

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

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

Dear Honorable Judge Hundt:

This letter is in objection to the FCC proposal to eliminate phone revenue in jail and prisons. This proposal would have a devastating effect on the prisoners and on the programs and facilities mentioned below.

Cutting off revenue from inmate phone calls would effectively put an end to the Friends Outside program and jeopardize all other contract programs, including schools, library and chaplaincy programs.

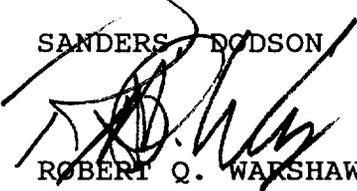
The Sheriff's Department is already strapped financially and it would be hard pressed to fund these programs from its already tight budget.

Calls from inmates to their families will increase (something they can ill afford), jeopardize the availability to inmate phones and eliminate beneficial inmate programs.

I strongly urge you to reconsider initiating this proposal because of the devastating effects it would have.

Very truly yours,

SANDERS, DODSON, RIVES & CANCIAMILLA



ROBERT Q. WARSHAWSKY
Attorney at Law

RQW:mlf

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

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