

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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September 27, 1994

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CC92-77

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Craig Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thomas:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Robert Shelley, Sheriff, Sheridan County, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice seeks comment on this analysis and asks interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invites parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The Further Notice also explicitly seeks comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice seeks additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also seeks comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

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The Honorable Craig Thomas
Page 2

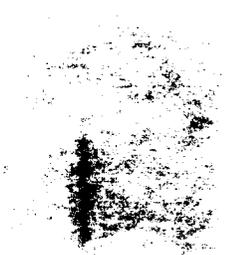
Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures



CRAIG THOMAS
WYOMING, AT LARGE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 1994

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Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposed rules on the Billed Party Preference (BPP) for long distance calls.

Robert Shelley, a constituent of mine, has raised several valid concerns regarding this matter. He is worried that he will not be able to adequately control collect calls going out of his detention facility. I would greatly appreciate your addressing his concerns.

I look forward to your timely response.

Best regards,

Craig

Craig Thomas
Member of Congress

CT:cj
ENCL

SHERIDAN COUNTY SHERIFF

P.O. Box 906 ★ SHERIDAN, WYOMING 82801 ★ 672-3453

ROBERT SHELLEY
SHERIFF

Chris

CHRIS

JULY 26, 1994

AUG 0 1994

Craig Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thomas,

I am writing you to express my concerns with the Federal Communication pending ruling on the proposed "Billed Party Preference" for long distance calls.

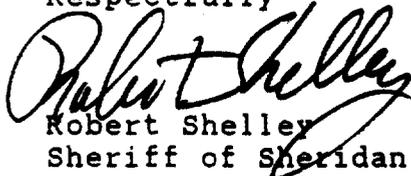
This will greatly compromise our control of out going collect calls from the Sheridan County Detention Facility.

1. We will loose our ability to block certain telephone numbers from the inmate phones. (witnesses, victim harassment, etc).
2. It will open up the phone system for possible 3 way calls where inmates can carry on drug business and plan escapes and etc.
3. We will lose on revenue which helps support the detention facility and we will loose control of the cost of the call which could cost the inmate even more for calls from their loved ones.

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I oppose the BPP and encourage the FCC to do the same.

Respectfully



Robert Shelley
Sheriff of Sheridan County
Box 906
Sheridan, Wyo 82801

CC; FCC