

September 9, 1994

SEP 13 2 27 PM '94

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

RECEIVED

From: Helen D. Tousignant
3719 Oakpark Court
Concord, Ca 94519

SEP 13 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

I vigorously oppose any federal interference with our ability to manage and control our inmates' calling.

Specifically, Billed Party Preference will eliminate revenue-sharing arrangements that fund some vital inmate programs and would adversely impact the Detention facilities in our area.

I speak from the prospective of one involved for a very long time in the Council of Churches' Chaplaincy program and Friends Outside which ministers to inmates and their families, both of which help provide emotional stability, rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

Lastly, at a time of fiscal crisis in government, the Federal Communications Commission should not be cutting the critical source of revenue so badly needed for services to inmates.

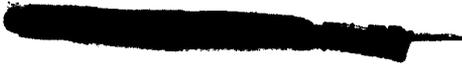
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George V. Voinovich
GOVERNOR

Mike DeWine
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION



Reginald A. Wilkinson, DIRECTOR

CC 92-77

1050 Freeway Drive, North
Columbus, Ohio 43229

September 13, 1994

RECEIVED

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

SEP 13 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the implementation of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at correctional facilities.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction recently negotiated a new inmate phone service agreement for our institutions. Advanced security measures were included as part of this agreement, and they are showing excellent results. BPP would remove our ability to provide these security measures and would be a detriment to the operation and safety of our institutions. Without these safeguards, the system would be vulnerable to fraudulent activities through the inappropriate use of inmate telephones. This could jeopardize our ability to provide such services in the future.

Additionally, the institution phone service is a valuable tool for boosting inmates' morale. A loss of this privilege would result in a decline in morale, increased tension within the institution, and added difficulty in managing the inmate population.

I am sensitive to the concerns that have been expressed by critics of the current system over rate charges to inmate families. Currently, limitations on rate charges are specified as part of our contract with the service provider. It states, "The Provider shall agree, and show proof, that the rates charged at all times will not exceed current AT&T and LEC published interlata, interstate, and intralata rates, adjusted for applicable operator assisted surcharges, and all the day and time rates.". I believe that these agreements have provided adequate safeguards from unfair charges to Ohio's inmate families.

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
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I recently spoke with Craig Glazer, chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regarding our concerns. Chairman Glazer indicated that he is in agreement with our position and will be sending a letter to your office under separate cover supporting an exemption from BPP for correctional facilities.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. If you have any further questions about the impact BPP could have on Ohio's prisons, please contact my office.

Sincerely,


Reginald A. Wilkinson
Director

c: Members of the Federal Communication Commission
 Vincent Townsend
 Ohio Washington Office
 Craig Glazer
 Mary Mertz

RAW/slj