CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
BUDGET

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OCA
92-77
4664

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

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September 15, 1994

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DEC 1 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Federal Communications Commission
Common Carrier Bureau
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find several copies of letters sent to me by my constituents outlining concerns about the Billed Party Preference proposed regulation, CC Docket92-77. Because this is a issue over which your department has jurisdiction, I felt you would be interested to know of this.

I would appreciate a response to the enclosed letters at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to respond directly to my constituents, as I have notified them of our contact and they will be awaiting your reply. Also, please forward a copy of your response to my office.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bond

CSB/sg
Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List A B C D E

Ralls County Sheriffs Department
P.O. Box 316
New London, Missouri 63459

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
Russell Bldg., Room 293
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Senator:

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,

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Sincerely,

Jake C. Rone

Jake C. Rone, Sheriff
New Madrid County
New Madrid, MO 63869
(314) 748-2516

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 17, 1994

Mr. Dale E. Barnett
Ralls County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Box 316
New London, Missouri 63459

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for your letter 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.

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

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 17, 1994

Mr. Jake C. Rone
Sheriff
New Madrid County Square
c/o The Jailhouse
New Madrid County, Missouri 63869

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Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures