

Dear FCC,

I live in Canada. I am the friend of an elder California prisoner who is now in mainline at a different prison, recovering from well over a decade in solitary confinement in Pelican Bay SHU. Having been denied meaningful human contact for so long, the recent possibility of 15-minute telephone conversations is curative and rehabilitative for him to say the least.

As his friend, I have recently set up an account with Global Tel Link International (GTL) in order to enable phone conversations with my friend. They are charging **75 cents per minute** or \$US11.25 per phone call, for a monthly total of \$US45 – 56. On top of that, GTL will not allow credit card payments for customers outside the US and will only communicate with us by email – no telephone contact or online dealings are allowed. I must pay by Western Union at \$US10-\$US15 per shot. So that brings the cost to approximately \$US1 per minute.

To put this in perspective, I pay less than \$US50 per month on my home phone for unlimited local calling **PLUS 500 minutes long distance anywhere in North America**. In other words, I could talk to the prison warden for a hour each week for free, but I must pay \$1 a minute to GTL to speak with my friend.

This is an outrage. I ask that you order GTL International to lower their rates substantially and end their practice of needless Western Union charges. I know the Western Union connection is needless because they allowed me to pay by credit card before they realized Canada was outside the US – and everything worked just fine.