



# Branch County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff C. John Pollack

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April 13, 2015

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FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: **Ex Parte Communication**  
**WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Branch Sheriff's Office, hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Branch County Sheriff's Office, supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information, specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail and it is allowed for the benefit of the 142 inmates, their families and our recently reduced staff. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether, access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have an incentive to allow access to ICS service, ease of that access. Our inmates are able to make calls 24 hours per day, seven days a week, with minimal staff oversight. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will reduce our ability to afford allowing ICS in this manner.

Our budget has been cut by one third in recent years and our jail manpower reduced. If we were not able to maintain our significant ICS services, we would have to go back to the very labor intensive and time consuming, one phone, one inmate call schedule. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process, meaning easier access to ICS for the inmate and their family.

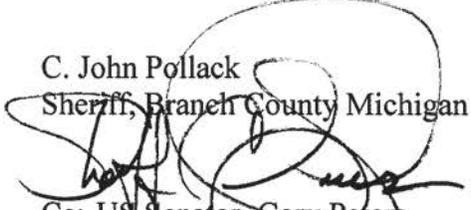
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Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs, to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

C. John Pollack  
Sheriff, Branch County Michigan



Cc: US Senator, Gary Peters  
US Senator, Debbie Stabenow  
US Congressman, Tim Walberg