



## Idaho Sheriffs' Association

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Executive Director*

April 10, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Idaho Sheriffs' Association (ISA) hereby files an ex parte communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. ISA represents all 44 counties and all 36 jails within Idaho. We support 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 Idaho jails in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if Inmate Calling Services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jails and has grown to the high level of usage today because we've been able to recover costs associated with its implementation and maintenance in our jails. The phone systems benefit the jails, inmates and their families. The revenue stream associated with inmate phone calls pay for the additional security measures necessary to maintain jail security. The importance of these measures is demonstrated by the huge number of criminal cases that are resolved every year when an inmate phone call is submitted into evidence.

If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of Inmate Calling Services, then some jails may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in their jail. Currently, jails have the incentive to allow significant access to Inmate Calling Services and inmates are able to make hundreds if not thousands of calls per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow Inmate Calling Services in the manner currently provided.

Sheriff's Offices in Idaho struggle to budget their operations. Idaho sheriffs provide full services including patrol, investigations, dispatch, civil and jail operations. All functions are important and funding prioritization is part of the process. Inmate telephone systems currently pay for themselves, however if this changes patrol cars and dispatch consoles are more important to the law enforcement mission and will remain first priority most likely reducing the level of support to inmate phone systems and essentially the availability to inmates.

Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing Inmate Calling Services in jails and we must be allowed to recover costs to be able to continue these services at the level we provide today.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vaughn Killeen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Vaughn Killeen  
Executive Director