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April 16, 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 Robertson County Sheriff's Office hereby files an ex parte communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. 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 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 inmates and their families. 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 the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and our inmates are able to make calls 14 hours per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Like most local governments, our county's budget has been tight which has resulted in no additional operating capital for our facility in the past few years. The ability to supply the revenue from ICS helps to cover the cost of the program and helps us continue to provide the service. Due to budget constraints and rising costs, we have had to make numerous difficult choices over the past few years. Because of the recent increase in mandated inmate programs that have priority over ICS, we would likely not be able to continue ICS without supplying the revenue to the county covering the cost.

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. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Bill Holt