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Ex Parte

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

Re: *Rates for Inmate Calling Service, WC Docket No. 12-375*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 13, I met separately with Travis Litman, senior legal advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel; Nick Degani, legal advisor to Commissioner Pai; and Amy Bender, legal advisor to Commissioner O’Rielly, about this proceeding. Verizon’s Chris Miller and Ann Berkowitz also attended the meetings. We urged the Commission to take action to reduce inmate-calling rates.

Verizon supports the Commission’s efforts to reduce exorbitant charges that families have to pay to receive phone calls from their loved ones in correctional facilities. The FCC should take action in this context because inmates’ families lack competitive choices for calling services. Instead, they are at the mercy of a single provider that all too often charges excessive rates. The result is inmates are less likely to maintain strong relationships with family and friends. And, studies show that inmates with a strong support network are less likely to commit another crime when they get out of prison.

We explained that as a former provider inmate-calling services, Verizon has a unique perspective on how this one-of-a-kind market does not function well for inmates and their families. We said it is important to reduce charges for both interstate and intrastate calls and that the Commission has in the past acted to address rates for all calls when there is a national need. This is a nationwide issue. Policymakers and key advocates from across the country and from all political parties agree that inmate-call rates are unreasonably high.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this exhibit is being filed in the appropriate docket.

Sincerely,

/S/

cc: Amy Bender
Nick Degani
Travis Litman