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October 27, 2015

Via ECFS and Electronic Mail

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054
Tom.Wheeler@fcc.gov

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20054
Mignon.Clyburn@fcc.gov

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
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Commissioner Ajit Pai
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Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054
Michael.O’Rielly@fcc.gov

Re: WC Docket No. 12-375

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners:

Global Tel*Link Corporation (“GTL”) seeks to inform you about threats being made against its executives in apparent response to public statements made by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) regarding its recent action on inmate calling services (“ICS”) at the FCC’s October 22, 2015 agenda meeting. GTL has contacted law enforcement and they are investigating all of the threats, but GTL believes it is important to alert the FCC as well.

This letter is not a communication directed to the merits or outcome of the order adopted by the FCC on October 22, 2015, and thus does not qualify as a “presentation” under 47 C.F.R. § 1.1202(a). This letter falls under the exemptions found in 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(3) as it directly relates to an emergency in which the safety of life is endangered or substantial loss of property is threatened. As required under 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(3), GTL files this letter in the FCC docket for this proceeding.

In a letter dated October 26, 2015, Securus Technologies, Inc. (“Securus”) provided information on several of the threats that have been made against Securus. As demonstrated therein, similar threats are being made against GTL and its executives.



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It appears these threats are being driven by press reports of the FCC's October 22, 2015 action, and the press releases issued by the FCC describing that action. In addition to the general press release issued by the FCC, GTL understands the FCC also has issued state-specific press releases (although these state-specific press releases do not appear to be posted on the FCC's website). In Virginia, however, the state-specific press release issued by the FCC contained inaccurate information, which was later corrected by the Virginia Department of Corrections as demonstrated in the attached.

As Securus explained, statements made by the FCC surrounding its October 22, 2015 action have incited public opinion regarding ICS providers to dangerous levels. GTL has worked closely with its correctional facility customers to reduce the cost of inmate-initiated telephone calls (as the Virginia Department of Corrections press release indicates), to introduce new and innovative technologies and messaging options for inmates and their families, and to provide streamlined payment processing alternatives for all consumers of ICS. Throughout this proceeding, GTL's proposals have been tailored to meet the needs of all stakeholders – inmates and their families, correctional institutions, ICS providers, and the safety of the general public.

In an effort to ensure the safety of its executives and employees, GTL urges the FCC to take all necessary steps to address any incendiary and erroneous press statements issued or planned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Oliver", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian D. Oliver
Chief Executive Officer
Global Tel*Link Corporation

Attachments

cc: Jonathan Sallet
Suzanne Tetreault

Media Contact:

Mark Wigfield, (202) 418-0253

mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC REDUCES HIGH COST OF PHONE CALLS TO INMATES IN VIRGINIA

Lower Rates Encourage More Contact Between Inmates & Loved Ones, Reducing Recidivism

Washington, D.C. (October 22, 2015) – The Federal Communications Commission today cut the excessive rates charged in Virginia for phone calls between inmates and their loved ones, and reined in egregious fees that can sometimes raise the cost of these calls by 40%.

Currently, the average cost in Virginia of a 15-minute, in-state, long-distance, pre-paid phone call from a family member to a loved one in prison is \$5.20. The FCC’s new rate cap cuts that cost by 68%, to \$1.65 for that same 15-minute call. The FCC also cut its existing cap on interstate long-distance calls by half, also bringing the cost of a 15-minute interstate long-distance call \$1.65.

“The FCC has a mandate to ensure that rates for all phone calls are just, reasonable and fair for all Americans, and that includes the families and loved ones of inmates,” said Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, who led the effort in the FCC to reform the inmate calling system. “Easing the financial burden on these families is not only the compassionate thing to do, it’s the right thing to do. Multiple studies have shown that having meaningful contact beyond the prison walls can make a real difference in maintaining community ties, promoting rehabilitation, and reducing recidivism. The FCC’s action is one small piece that could make a big difference on criminal justice reform”

Based on data collected by the FCC, the Order adopted by the Commission caps the rate for all local and long distance calls from state and federal prisons nationwide at 11 cents per minute, while providing tiered rates to account for the higher cost of serving jails and smaller institutions. The cap fully covers the costs of providing the security required for inmate calling, and allows providers a reasonable return.

For more details, see https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-335984A1.pdf.

Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500

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www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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News: Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 23, 2015 - Contact Lisa E. Kinney, (804) 674-3275

Virginia Has Drastically Reduced The Cost Of Offender Phone Calls In Recent Years — Average offender phone call now \$1.48

RICHMOND - Communication between incarcerated offenders and their families and friends is an important step in the reentry process. To that end, the Virginia Department of Corrections has worked diligently over the last five years to drastically reduce the cost of offenders' phone calls.

Virginia was nationally recognized in 2013 for transforming the state's toughest prisons with wide sweeping culture change, including new opportunities for high-risk offenders to earn their way to lower security level prisons. The Virginia Department of Corrections' (VADOC) innovative Administrative Step-Down program, partnering Red Onion State Prison (ROSP) with neighboring Wallens Ridge State Prison, received the State Transformation in Action (STAR) Award from the Council of State Government's Southern Legislative Conference.

Regrettably, information contained in a Thursday news release from the Federal Communications Commission concerning Virginia created confusion for offenders and families regarding what they are being charged for phone service.

Phone rates for Virginia offenders are as follows:

- A local collect call is \$1.00 for 20 minutes, while a local prepaid/debit call is \$0.90 for 20 minutes
- 86% of all calls made from Virginia Department of Corrections facilities are local calls that fall under the self-imposed rate caps above
- The average cost per call for inmates in VADOC facilities is \$1.48 — with an average cost of \$0.0871/minute

Global Tel*Link (GTL) handles offender phone calls for the Virginia Department of Corrections. Over the last five years, Virginia has been at the forefront of efforts to bring affordable phone service to incarcerated offenders, working with GTL to rein in the average cost of phone calls from Virginia state correctional facilities.

In 2010, the average cost of a phone call from a Virginia facility was

\$4.06; today, the average has fallen to \$1.48 (with an average cost of \$0.0871/minute). Under the FCC's proposed rules announced yesterday, the average cost per call could be allowed to go up.

The VADOC will continue to make every effort to keep phone service affordable for offenders and their loved ones. The Department of Corrections does not receive any commissions from offender phone calls.

More information on the VADOC can be found at www.vadoc.virginia.gov.



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