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NORTH CAROLINA PRISONER LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

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12 July 2001

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Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

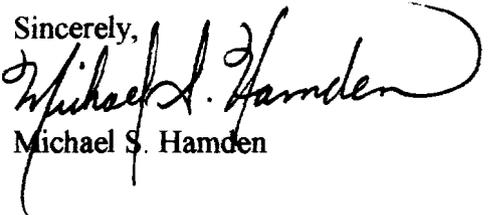
Re: *Ex parte* presentation in CC Docket No. 96-128 (Remand of Inmate Service Issues)

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with § 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, I enclose two copies of an *ex parte* letter submitted to Ms. Dorothy Attwood by North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.

Thank you kindly for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Michael S. Hamden

Enclosures

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List ABCDE

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Dorothy Attwood, Esq.
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: CC Docket No. 96-128 (Remand of Inmate Service Issues)

Dear Ms. Attwood:

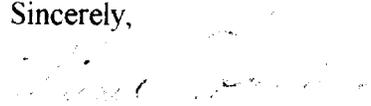
North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc., is a non-profit, public service organization that provides legal advice and assistance to people incarcerated in this State. I write in support of such measures as may be necessary to ensure continuation of telephone service to small local jails in North Carolina.

I am advised that extremely low rate ceilings on local collect calls in North Carolina are threatening the continued availability of telephone service in county jails. These inadequate rates appear to drive ever-escalating charges on already excessive rates on long distance calls. Without some adjustment, it appears that the smaller service providers will be forced out of the market. With BellSouth's recent announced exit from providing phone service to jails in the Southeast, there seems to be serious question whether telephone service will continue to be available to people detained in local jails.

I have urged the Commission to act promptly to control excessive long distance rates charged on inmate-initiated long-distance telephone calls. There is a continuing, urgent need for such action. However, it is also true that local service rates must cover the cost of serving inmates in jails. In order to address the immediate threat to local service in jails, I ask that you give serious consideration to the short-term approach recently proposed by the Inmate Calling Service Providers Coalition and discussed with Commission staff. Under that approach, service providers could apply the deregulated local coin rate charged at their public payphones as the local calling element of the charge for a local collect call from an inmate telephone. I understand that such an approach has been successfully employed in some 30 states.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your service to our country.

Sincerely,


Michael S. Hamden

pc ✓ Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary