

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates – in many cases, dramatically higher rates – for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a “platform” in another state – let’s say in Nebraska. From this “platform,” he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies’ actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don’t need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers’ interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

Anna Tom
Hicksville, New York

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *Schumer*
Senator *Clida*

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NY

ccs: Senator *Schumer*
Senator *Clinton*

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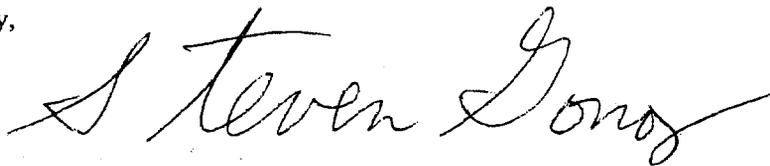
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New York

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *Schumer*
Senator *Clinton*

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Sincerely,

Eric Cheng / NH

ccs: Senator
Senator

*Gregg
Sikuma*

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But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

Brenda J. DeTerrest
Southfield, MI

ccs: Senator *Coleman*
Senator *Dayton*

 *** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

ST. TIME	CONNECTION TEL/ID	SENDER NAME	NO.	MODE	PGS.	RESULT
07/15 09:53	2024665630		8538	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'39
07/15 11:40			8539	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'40
07/15 12:23			8540	AUTO RX	ECM 19	NG 02'58
						19
07/15 12:46			8541	AUTO RX	ECM 23	NG 03'30
						23
07/15 13:15	94187364		4451	TRANSMIT	0	NG 00'00
						0 #018
07/15 13:42			8542	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'46
07/15 13:56			8543	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'15
07/15 14:12			8544	AUTO RX	ECM 17	NG 02'42
						17
07/15 14:33	DEWITTROSSSTEVEN		8545	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'58
	608 252 9243					
07/15 14:49			8546	AUTO RX	ECM 26	NG 04'05
						26
07/15 15:28	8038946300		8547	AUTO RX	G3 1	OK 00'40
07/15 15:56			8548	AUTO RX	ECM 24	OK 03'38
07/15 16:13			8549	AUTO RX	ECM 29	OK 04'28
07/15 16:19			8550	AUTO RX	ECM 28	OK 04'11
07/15 16:25			8551	AUTO RX	ECM 26	OK 03'57
07/15 16:31			8552	AUTO RX	ECM 25	OK 03'46
07/15 16:36			8553	AUTO RX	ECM 32	OK 04'56
07/15 16:49	202 457 3205		8554	AUTO RX	ECM 2	OK 01'05
07/15 17:06			8555	AUTO RX	ECM 26	NG 04'02
						26
07/16 03:58	2024182802		8556	AUTO RX	ECM 1	NG 02'19
						1
07/16 04:06	2024182802		8557	AUTO RX	ECM 3	OK 03'31
07/16 07:24			8558	AUTO RX	ECM 13	OK 02'06
07/16 07:28			8559	AUTO RX	ECM 15	OK 02'16
07/16 07:31			8560	AUTO RX	ECM 18	OK 02'44
07/16 07:35			8561	AUTO RX	ECM 18	OK 02'40
07/16 07:40			8562	AUTO RX	ECM 22	OK 03'18
07/16 07:50			8563	AUTO RX	ECM 22	NG 03'31
						22
07/16 08:03			8564	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'22
07/16 08:19			8565	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'33
07/16 10:57	512 505 8145		8566	AUTO RX	ECM 3	OK 01'36
07/16 12:38			8567	AUTO RX	ECM 3	OK 00'58
07/16 13:55			8568	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'20
07/16 14:52			8569	AUTO RX	ECM 3	OK 00'49
07/16 16:28			8570	AUTO RX	ECM 1	OK 00'34
07/17 14:57			8571	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 03'24
07/17 15:01			8572	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 03'20
07/17 15:05			8573	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 03'23
07/17 15:08			8574	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 03'22
07/17 15:24			8575	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 04'42
07/17 15:29			8576	AUTO RX	ECM 10	OK 04'45

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Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,



WA

ccs: Senator *Cantwell*
Senator *Murray*

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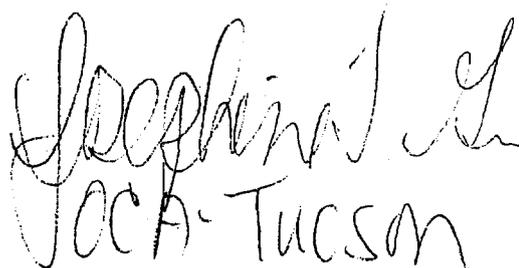
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Sincerely,



JOCHIM
TUCSON

ccs: Senator *McCain*
Senator *Kyl*

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With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

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Sincerely,

Merle A. Cory
CA

ccs: Senator *Funkin*
Senator *Boxer*

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Sincerely,

Sebin Kim
california

ccs: Senator *Frost*
Senator *Boxer*

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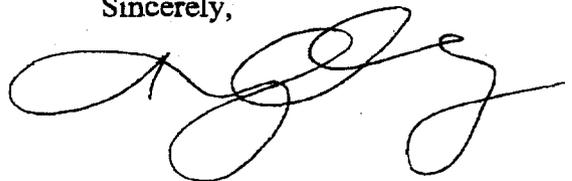
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 CA

ccs: Senator *Fisher*
Senator *Boxer*

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Patricia J. ...
California
ccs: Senator *Frost*
Senator *Boxer*

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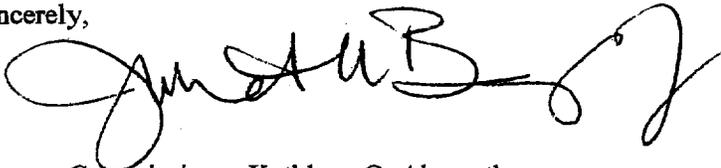
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ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
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Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *Fisher*
Senator *Boxer*

CALIFORNIA

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Sincerely,

Valerie Long
Florida

ccs: Senator *Graham*
Senator *Nelson*

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ccs: Senator *Graham*
Senator *Nelson Florida*

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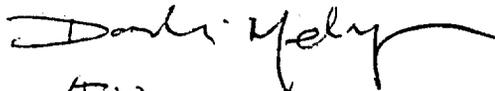
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Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest local telephone companies would be the biggest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,



(FL)

ccs: Senator *Graham*
Senator *Nelson*

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates – in many cases, dramatically higher rates – for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state – let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

Young Perry
OH

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *Delwin*
Senator *Voinovich*

July 16, 2004

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445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Christal Pagan-Pumphrey, Oh

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *DelVino*
Senator *Voinovich*

July 16, 2004

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445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Q. Abernathy, with the initials "NM" written to the right.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator Domenici
Senator Bingaman

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Copps, Abernathy, Martin, and Adelstein:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

Clinton *Wray* *NM*

ccs: Senator *Domenici*
Senator *Bingaman*

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Sincerely,

Jasmine Pan, NM

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Senator *Domenici*
Senator *Bingaman*

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

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Sincerely,

Anthony Ka

Alexandria, VA, OCA

Dept of Navy

ccs: Senator *Allen*
Senator *Warner*

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

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Sincerely,



UA

ccs: Senator *Allen*
Senator *Warner*

OXA - NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
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Sincerely,


Arlington, VA

ccs: Senator *Allen*
Senator *Warner*

July 16, 2004

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Sincerely,

Daphne Kwok
VA

ccs: Senator Allen
Senator Warner