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8/3/12

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENT - WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)
445 12TH STREET S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN RE: ABUSE OF PRISON ~~CA~~ PHONE CHARGES (KICKBACKS)

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

MY NAME IS CHARLES WILLIS I AM INCARCERATED IN FLORENCE, ARIZONA AT A PRIVATE PRISON RUN BY GEO GROUP. I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE FACTS THAT EVERY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES RECEIVES A KICKBACK FROM MY FAMILY/FRIENDS EVERY TIME I CALL THEM. ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR CHARLES RYAN REFUSES TO DISCLOSE HOW MUCH HIS DEPARTMENT RECEIVES BACK YET THEY CHARGE THE HIGHEST RATES ALLOWED BY YOUR COMMISSION WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION TO THE COST. EVERY OTHER STATE DISCLOSED THEIR PERCENTAGES WERE FROM 30% TO AS HIGH AS 55% KICKED BACK.

A KICK BACK IS A BRIBE TO AWARD A CONTRACT A BRIBE IS CORRUPTION THAT YOUR COMMISSION CAN AND SHOULD ACT UPON TO CORRECT A MAJOR WRONG GOING ON THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. OUR FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW ~~WE~~ WE ARE ALRIGHT AND WE (THE INMATES) NEED TO BUILD SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR WHEN WE GET OUT TO PREVENT A RETURN TO PRISON.

IT IS A CRIME TO BRIBE/KICK BACK TO ANYONE, ESPECIALLY A PUBLIC ENTITY THAT THE TAX PAYERS OF THIS COUNTRY SUPPLY THE MONEY FOR THEIR EXISTENCE. PLEASE STOP THIS ABUSE NOW

SINCERELY

Charles Willis

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July 26, 2012

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENT - WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)
445 12TH STREET SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

ABUSE OF PRISON CALL CHARGES

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

MY NAME IS GEORGE FIERROS. I AM AN INMATE HOUSED IN A PRIVATE PRISON LOCATED IN FLORENCE, ARIZONA. THE ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS IN THE PAST AND CURRENTLY IS RECEIVING A "KICK BACK" FROM THE INMATE PHONE SERVICE PROVIDER. THIS IS NOT AN UNCOMMON PROBLEM. THIS PRACTICE IS NATIONWIDE. ARIZONA REFUSES TO DISCLOSE HOW MUCH OF A PERCENTAGE THEY ARE BEING KICKED BACK, (PRISON LEGAL NEW MARCH 2012), NOR WILL THEY OR ANY OTHER STATE DECLARE HOW MUCH THEY COLLECT AND WHERE THE MONEY GOES. THIS INFORMATION BELONGS TO THE PUBLIC THEY SERVE. ALL STATES HAVE REPORTED A "KICK BACK" FROM 30% TO 55% EXCEPT THE STATE OF ARIZONA. CURRENTLY OUR PHONE PROVIDER ONLY ALLOWS OUR FAMILY AND [redacted] FRIENDS TO PRE-PAY TO TALK TO US. THEY CHARGE US A TRANSACTION FEE PER CALL PLUS ANY [redacted] MINUTES. THESE CALLS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE TO MAKE.

RECENTLY IN THE PAST YEAR I HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED SEVERAL TIMES. I NOR MY WIFE CAN WRITE VERY WELL AND HAVE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE DO IT FOR US. SO WE ARE FORCED TO USE THE PHONE SYSTEM. I HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO MY WIFE ONCE IN THREE MONTHS DUE TO THE COST OF THESE CALLS. SHE NOT ABLE TO EVEN SEND ME MONEY LIKE I NEED IT. THESE PHONE CALLS ARE MAKING OUR [redacted] BONDS STRONGER YET THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH WE CAN IN A 15 MINUTE SPAN THAT HAS TO LAST FOR 2 TO 3 MONTHS BEFORE WE CAN AFFORD TO DO IT AGAIN. THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS HARDSHIP ON ME AND MY FAMILY THAT JUST KEEPS GETTING HARDER TO ENDURE.

(OVER)

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This ABUSE OF POWER YOU AND YOUR DEPARTMENT CAN HELP MILLIONS OF FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER AND BECOME EVEN CLOSER. PART OF REHABILITATION IS BUILDING A STRONG SUPPORT NETWORK THAT'S WHAT THEY (DOC) WANT US TO DO BEFORE WE LEAVE PRISON. YET OUR FAMILIES ARE PAYING A TREMENDOUS PRICE WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY FROM D.O.C.

IN CLOSING PLEASE PLACE THIS LETTER WITH THE PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128) I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING MY PLEA FOR MERCY AND HELP.

SINCERELY

George Fierros

GEORGE FIERROS ADC #058206
A.S.P.C. - CENTRAL ARIZONA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY 2D15
P.O. BOX 9600 MAILBOX #799
FLORENCE, ARIZONA 85132

P.S.

A "KICK BACK" IS CORRUPTION, WHICH IS ABUSE, WHICH AFFECTS ALL OF US PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY. IT IS ALSO A CRIME THAT ONLY YOUR OFFICE CAN STOP.

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July 26, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comment - Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)
445 12TH Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

In Re: Abuse of Prison Call Charges

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

My name is Stephen Distante. I am an inmate being housed in Florence, Arizona at a private prison. Recently Prison Legal News disclosed what every state in the nation Department of Corrections percentage of "kick back" from their inmate phone provider. They ranged from 30% to as high as 55% with the exception of Arizona (they refused to provide this information). Arizona charges the highest allowable rate the Federal Communications Commission allows. None of the States disclosed how much money was being collected or where the money is being spent. Department of Corrections is a tax payer funded expense and any kick back money would belong to them. This is where your office/department/Commission is needed. Our friends and families are the tax payers/voters. They are paying twice. Recently my grandmother died, my mother was dianognosed with stage 3 kidney failure. I have called every week to be a positive member of my support network. Rehabilitation is teaching me that. My family have been charged in advance as our provider only allows pre-paid account. They are charged a per call/transaction fee plus whatever minutes we talk at the highest rates possible so the State can get the most "kick back." A "kick back" is a bribe to provide service. It is corruption at all level of business. Corruption is an abuse of authority/power and abuse is a

crime. Only your commission can stop the abuse from continuing making State Department of Corrections accountable for how much money is literally being over charged by the provider (stealing) and being given to the Department of Corrections as a "kick back" (bribery) to be awarded the contract to provide phone service to their inmates and their friends and family members. (which is double dipping)
Now if I remember correctly bribery, over billing/charging/stealing are crimes punishable by fines/restitution and/or incarceration. Given the corporate partnership with the State entity this money needs to be accounted for as its real easy for the checks to be made out to private citizens with the power to decide who gets what after all who made the terms for the "kick backs"?

In closing your commission can be the solution or the continuation of corruption that exists right under your watchful eyes and continue to let the American Tax Payer be taken for more of a corrupt ride. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely

Stephen Distante ADC # 248499
ASPC-Central Arizona Correctional Facility 2014
P.O. Box 9600 mailbox #427
Florence, Arizona 85132

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FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition
(CC Docket #96-128)

8-6-12

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am currently incarcerated in the Virginia State Prison system. I am writing you in regard to the outrageous telephone prices that our families are being charged by Global Tel Link. The average cost per call for my family is $11.00 per call, as my family is out of state. The family that I call is also going thru medical problems and having to pay such high phone prices takes away from their hard earned money that is now being spent on doctors visits and prescriptions. I think it is unfair and unethical for Global Tel Link to charge our families so much.

Virginia D.O.C. does not allow the use of call forwarding. Those companies that offer such services, we are no longer allowed to deal with. We are left with no choice but to pay these unfair, high prices. I would ask that you help our families by investigating this matter and help us lower these rates. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Neal Lawrence #1393332
Buckingham Correctional Center
P.O. Box 430
Dillwyn Va 23936

Dear Chairman Genachowski

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

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a 15 min. call to my Mother or Brother and his wife in California, using my prison phone system prepaid account, costs me about $48.75. This is the only way I can call my family without passing any burdens or cost of my incarceration on to my family, something I'm not willing to do because it's not right. There are services out there that would cut the cost of my calls to California down to about $2.00 a call. There's a notice in my POD posted right now threatening disciplinary action and or a block on my familys phone #s if I'm found to be using these services. This to protect GTL's profit margin and huge kickbacks paid to VA. DOC.

D.O.C. encourages inmates to remain in touch with family and friends but such gross overcharges undermine my efforts to maintain much needed contacts w/ family to facilitate my successful re-entry into society

These business tactics are unfair to family of in-mates, and competing phone companies and hurts my faith in the system incarcerating me. I am