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FCC Mail Room

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[This is a public comment to the Wright Petition, CC Docket #96-128]

Chairman Genachowski
FCC
445 12th St. NW
Wash. DC 20554

Re: The ultra high cost of prison telephone communications

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am respectfully forwarding this letter to your office to sound off my concerns about the exceedingly inflated rates being charged to prisoners to use the prison telephone system to keep in contact with their friends and loved ones.

Here in Tennessee prisons we are connected to the outside world through "Global Tel-link". I personally have been confined to calling my parents (who are 75 (mother) and 86 (father) years old, in failing health, and living on a fixed income) no more than once a week, and then only for 5 minutes at a time. This, even though they only live 3½ hrs. away in the same state, because a 5-minute call costs around 4.00! The same call on the outside would cost, at the most, .50! This is because prison telephone contractors are operating with absolutely no competition, among other things. The fact is, Sir, that my own personal experience is nothing compared to some other inmates, for whom a personal call to the ones they love costs them or their family upwards of 25.00 for a 30-minute phone call, depending on where they live!

It is my personal opinion that in this day and age, with the explosion of inexpensive technical advancement, that such an injustice can be openly practiced on some of our most disenfranchised citizens. It is my hope that your heart is not calloused to the plight of these sons, daughters, mothers and fathers, who, in addition to being locked away from the ones they love

and who love them, are loaded down with this additional unnecessary burden, and that you will take seriously any legislation that passes your desk that promises to relieve some of this burden.

May God bless you in your efforts and my your conscience be your guide in your sacrifice of public service.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rishton