

Dear Commissioners,

I am in support of the petition limiting excessive prison phone rates. Most inmates are held in prisons hundreds of miles from their homes and it is a hardship to have families drive the long distances to visit, when one considers both the price of gas and even a motel room. Phone calls really are the best way for these families and inmates to stay in touch. However, if prisons and jails charge extremely high, burdensome, and predatory rates for these calls, it will cause greater burden on families who cannot in many cases afford this.

It is possible for there to be good security and reasonable rates for these phone calls, as evidenced by different states' rates. It appears that the disparity in these rates is due oftentimes due to phone companies paying a commission to the state for the service, hence why it is predatory to the families those who are forced to use this system.

I support ending this type of practice and setting up more reasonable rates for families of inmates who are forced to use this system. Part of the system of reform will come when bonds are strengthened for inmates and their families, not when they are hindered.

Thank you for your consideration.