

DAVID CARMICHAEL GS-6550
175 PROGRESS DR.
WAYNESBURG PA, 15370

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski

I am an inmate here at S.C.I. Greene here in Pennsylvania
The High Cost of making a Phone Call is abusive I can't even use the
Phone. I can't call home. But when I was shipped out to Michigan
two years ago I could use it because it was only 10¢ a minute
there. It was the ~~the~~ 1st time I got to talk to anyone I know in Mich.
The inmates there before we got there got with Mich. Cause they change
their system there from the state profiting from inmates Phone calls
We need your help Mr Genachowski to end the abusive and
outrageous phone system here. we need your support of the F.C.C. to
end this here.

THANK
YOU

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

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

Received & Inspected

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Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I was sent to Nevada Dept. of Corrections in 2004 on involuntary interstate corrections compact, from Wyoming.

The phone rates have negatively impacted me, my family and friends. My family and friends cannot afford to travel to see me, and the phone costs \$14.80 for a half-hour call, and this money has to be paid up-front.

I have been locked-down on 23-24 hours a day segregation for 9 and a half years, and solitary confinement for over 4 years. To not be able to receive visits, and then not be able to call home has been very hard on us. Contact with the outside is proven to help inmates in their rehabilitation, and I think it is very sad that the phone companies are allowed to abuse our families with what amounts to a monopoly on interstate phone calls because if they don't want to use the phone company provided, their only option is to not talk to us. Interstate calls are charged at 3 times the rate of in-state calls!

Sky is the limit on how much these companies will and can charge in the future, so, a cap should be put in place on these companies.

I wasn't charged, originally, in this state. Nor, do I have loved ones in this state. I was moved here against my will and effectively →

Locked-down, and cut off from my family and friends.

My friends and family could afford a five dollar call once a month, but \$14.80 + having to use a credit card or pre-paid debit card on top of that, is way out of line and my loved ones can't afford it.

Most people in prison come from low-income families, and this needs to be taken into consideration as well.

Thank-you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert McGuire #83383

H.D.S.P.

P.O. Box 650

Indian Springs, NV. 89070

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NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENTS
445 12TH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

This is a public comment for the wright petition (cc Docket #96-128). My name is GARY LEWIS BRADLEY (JT3090), I'm currently housed at S.C.I. GREENE located at 175 PROGRESS DRIVE in WAYNESBURG PA 15370. I'm serving a 2½ to 5 year's prison term. I'm a HVAC-R tech. maintenance worker who makes .27 cent an hour, where I work 6 hours a day (MONDAY thru FRIDAY) where I make \$32.40 a month, where 20% is deducted from any money I receive. After the (20%) deduction is made from my pay roll, I only have \$25.90 a month.

Majority of my family lives in New York CITY and OHIO, beside my wife and children who lives in PENNSYLVANIA. I only live on my pay roll from work and my phone calls I make to my wife are \$3.30 for a (15) fifteen minute call. And I only live approx. (30) thirty minutes away from the institution (home jail). I did have collect calling on my phone, but due to this new phone service the D.O.C. has switch too, I'm no longer able to make collect calls to my family. Because the phone service who PENNSYLVANIA D.O.C. switch to is making my family buy/setup an account from them, so I can continue to make phone calls to my love ones. Even though my family has collect calls setup on their phone.

I would like to call my family (ex. mother, sisters, nieces, nephews, etc) in NEW YORK CITY it will cost me almost \$10. (Remember I only make \$25.40 a month) I believe my family and me is being extorted from this new system (GLOBAL TEL LINK) and it suppose to be a cheaper way to make phone call. This is the 2ND time they (D.O.C. have changed phone service and now my family is being forced to buy this phone arrangement or my love ones can't speak to me on a regular basis.

I'll gladly appreciate if you can help out in this matter, by passing a bill where it will be one flat rate where I may call, like in some other states have set up for there Prison!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
& COOPERATION!

GARY LEWIS BRADLEY

Gary Lewis Bradley

MICHAEL THOMAS DX-4228
175 PROGRESS DR,
WF NESBURG, PA, 15370

NOV - 5 2012
FCC Mail Room

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski

I am a Inmate at a State Prison at SCI, Greene in Pennsylvania
The abusive cost of making a phone call here is outrageous I am
from Michigan so I call Michigan & INDIANA when I use the phone
But Due to the High Cost of the phone I can't use it.
I've been locked up going on 15 years until a few months ago
I could only call home 1 time a year But I have a new job that
pays more so I can call 2 times every 3 months, also 2 years ago
I was shipped out of state to Michigan because of overcrowding here.
The phone system in Michigan was wonderful it was with Sprint.
It cost 10¢ a minute anywhere in U.S.A. the 1st minute here is over
\$6.45 1st minute, while being there for 14 months was the only time
I got to talk to family and friends, because in Michigan before we
got there the inmates and Michigan Cure has led a nationwide
campaign to block states from profiting from Inmate phone
calls, so Mr Genachowski we need your support of the
F.C.C. to end the high cost of the phone system here.

THANK
you

Received & Inspected MICHAEL DRAWBAUGH # GZ-8636

NOV - 5 2012

SLI-Albion Unit B-B

10745 Route 18

Oct. 26, 2012

FCC Mail Room

Albion, PA 16415-0002

This is a Public Comment for the
"WRIGHT PETITION" (Docket # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski

I MICHAEL DRAWBAUGH # GZ-8636 are a Pennsylvania State Prison Inmate at SLI-Albion near Erie PA. I am writing in regards to the Prison Phone Justice CAMPAIGN.

Chairman Genachowski I know for a fact that the State Prison Phone Rates in Pennsylvania are out of control with the (kick backs), PA. Prisons get from families of inmates as well as the inmates themselves. I pay \$5.75 for a 15 minute phone call to Harrisburg PA. If I call collect which I don't do much its alot more cost to my family. How I know about the PA. DoL, Slam with the phone system. Is on March 2010 Pennsylvania made a contract with Michigan to house PA. Inmates in Muskegon, Michigan. Due to PA's over-crowding Chairman I was one of first inmates to enter Muskegon State Prison in Michigan. Now upon my arrival in Michigan I saw they used the same phone provider that is in Pennsylvania Embargo. Any place I called from Michigan State Prison using a Prepaid phone ^{Card} Just like PA. Sells. It cost me a \$1.80 for 15 minutes to call my family in Harrisburg from Muskegon, Michigan.

I called my family in Florida from Michigan using my Inmate Calling Card you get off Prison Commissary. So the Michigan Guards informed us PA. Inmates about how Michigan Inmates fault, the Michigan DoL and won. That the Michigan Department of Corrections had to give up its Commissions (Kick backs) and pass the Savings along to the people who really pay for the calls.



I am one who found information about how to fight these crazy Phone rates in PA. State and County Prisons.

Chairman Genachowski PA. has Embargo Phone Provider as well as Michigan has. So noway does PA. have to ripped off Inmates families and Inmates like they been doing for years.

I have enclosed copies to show you with responses from a one Kay D. Perry in regards to the (e.T.C.) Campaign going on around the Country with regard to the Phone rate issue at hand.

As you will read it only takes one or two policy makers to make the changes happen.

So Chairman with Embargo already in PA. there is no reason I should keep paying these very high phone Rates Just to call within the same State. It will take your help to stop what needs to be Stopped by Law of the FCC.

Please send me a response in regards to what I have provided to read. I realize this doesn't happen over night as it didn't for Michigan Inmates.

But this is wrong what PA. is doing, to PA. Inmates as well as all the families of PA. Inmates at hand. Please respond Thankyou!

Michael Drawlough
10/26/12

(PS) Please help the many thousands of families in Pennsylvania with this well overdue subject matter at hand with the PA. Doc Phone Rates.

Thanks Again Chairman
Genachowski for your Time!

eTc Campaign

c/o MI-CURE
PO BOX 2736
KALAMAZOO, MI 49003-2736



Equitable Telephone Charges

Dear Friend,

Since 2000, we have been working with individuals throughout the nation to improve prison telephone systems. It is tough work! Occasionally, it may even seem hopeless. At those times, it is worth considering what all of those advocates have accomplished.

When we began the eTc Campaign in 2000, we knew...

- Three prison systems offered debit calling at reduced rates (the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Colorado, and Tennessee).
- One state (Nebraska) accepted no commission on prison calls.
- One state (Texas) allowed only trustees to make phone calls – and then only one call per quarter.
- Commissions paid by phone companies to prison systems were high and trending higher.
- The rates charged for prison phone calls were trending higher.

Today, we know...

- ☺ More than half of the state prison systems offer debit or prepaid calling at reduced rates (Federal Bureau of Prisons, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming).
- ☺ Seven states (California, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island) accept no commission on prison calls.
- ☺ Commissions are trending lower as are rates charged for prison phone calls.
- ☺ Georgia, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Oregon prison systems allow calls to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones.
- ☺ Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Virginia also allow prepaid or debit calls to cell phones.
- ☺ State regulatory agencies in Alabama, Maine, and New Mexico have concluded that they can regulate calls originating from jails and prisons.
- ☺ Federal legislation (H.R. 1133) has been introduced to require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to consider a variety of remedies to correct problems with interstate prison phone calls and to reconfirm the FCC's power to do so.
- ☺ There has been editorial support for improvements in prison phone systems in more than 25% of the states.
- ☺ Legislation to improve the systems has been introduced in more than 50% of the states

It's not hopeless. It's just hard! In many states where we have seen changes, it only took one policymaker (often a legislator) to make a difference. Here's how you can help:



If you are in the free world, the information you need to understand the system and to advocate for changes is on our website (www.etccampaign.com). Please visit the website and use the information and/or tools there to begin advocating for improvements to the system!



If you are incarcerated, let others know about the campaign. Please forward this flyer to someone in the free world who may participate in the web-based campaign.

Regardless of where you are, let us know of any changes that occur in the prison phone system through which you communicate.

TEL – 269-383-0028 - FAX 269-373-2545 - EMAIL kayperry@aol.com



PO BOX 2736
KALAMAZOO MI 49003-2736
269-383-0028

April 3, 2011

Mr. Michael Drawbaugh - 354269
2400 S. Sheridan Drive
Muskegon, MI 49442-6298

Dear Mr. Drawbaugh:

First, I am enclosing a bit of information about the eTc Campaign. It will give you some idea of what is going on around the country with regard to this issue.

The problem has been solved differently in each state. In Michigan, one legislator had boilerplate language inserted into a budget bill that required the Michigan Department of Corrections to give up its commissions (kick backs) and pass the savings along to the people who pay for the calls. In New York, the changes resulted from an executive order by the governor – which was preceded by legislative attempts and litigation to address the problem. In California, commission reductions and rate changes were introduced gradually over a number of years. In Florida, the director of the department instituted the changes. We know of no case where changes were a direct result of litigation, though litigation has certainly helped to raise the issue and give it legitimacy.

The good news is that it often takes just one or two concerned policy makers to make the changes happen. There is plenty of information on the eTc website for your families to use in advocating. You and your friends can write to the governor, your state legislators, newspapers, and others to call attention to the problem. The high rates are indefensible, and everyone knows it. You just have to find that one person who will challenge the immorality of it all. It is a very slow process. (We worked on Michigan from 1999 to 2008.) But the results are worth it. Good luck!

Sincerely,

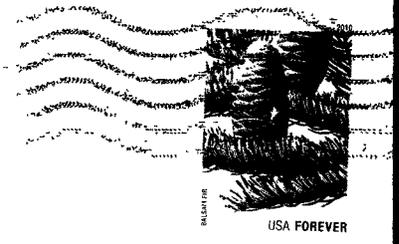
Kay D. Perry

MI-CURE
eTc CAMPAIGN
PO BOX 2736
KALAMAZOO, MI 49003-2736



GRAND RAPIDS MI 495

11 ADDITIONAL PERMIT



5-104A

MICHAEL DRAWBAUGH - 354269
2400 S SHERIDAN DR
MUSKEGON MI 49442-6298

494426298



Rates by State

		Cost of a 15-Minute Phone Call by Call Type							
		Collect				Debit or Prepaid			
State	Telephone Company	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate
MI	EMBARQ	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.80
MN	Global Tel*Link	\$1.75	\$4.95	\$6.45	\$17.30	\$0.35	\$4.80	\$4.80	\$4.80
MO	Public Communications Service	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
MS	Global Tel*Link	\$2.60	\$4.90	\$4.90	\$13.35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MT	Public Communications Service	\$5.75	\$5.75	\$5.75	\$5.75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NC*	Global Tel*Link	\$1.05	\$3.65	\$3.75	\$17.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ND	Securus Technologies	\$5.13	\$5.13	\$6.06	\$6.06	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$5.10	\$5.10
NE	Global Tel*Link	\$1.00	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$3.75	\$0.80	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$3.00
NH	Inmate Communication Solutions	\$2.20	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$1.50	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25
NJ	Global Tel*Link	\$2.50	\$4.75	\$7.75	\$15.10	\$2.09	\$4.04	\$6.59	\$12.89
NM	Public Communications Service	\$2.15	\$4.38	\$4.38	\$10.50	\$1.80	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$7.50
NV	Global Tel*Link	\$1.46	\$4.27	\$5.03	\$17.30	\$1.46	\$4.27	\$5.03	\$17.30
NY	Value Added Communications	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72
OH**	Global Tel*Link	\$1.14	\$3.94	\$5.87	\$16.97	\$0.91	\$3.15	\$4.69	\$13.58
OK	Global Tel*Link	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OR	Global Tel*Link	\$2.35	\$4.14	\$14.30	\$17.30	\$1.75	\$2.81	\$9.10	\$10.60
PA	Securus Technologies	\$2.20	\$5.00	\$6.55	\$12.61	\$2.20	\$5.00	\$5.55	\$9.75
RI	Securus Technologies	\$0.70	\$0.70	\$0.70	\$5.80	\$0.63	\$0.63	\$0.63	\$5.22
SC	EMBARQ	\$1.15	\$4.91	\$7.95	\$8.20	\$0.92	\$3.93	\$6.36	\$6.56
SD	Securus Technologies	\$2.71	\$6.30	\$9.60	\$11.00	\$1.25	\$3.60	\$3.80	\$3.80
TN	Global Tel*Link	\$1.00	\$3.35	\$4.64	\$14.30	\$0.90	\$3.02	\$4.18	\$12.87
TX	Embarq/ Securus Technologies	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$6.45	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$5.85

As it stands at Today Pennsylvania, Now has Global Tel*Link, which is even more Now. in Cost.

Rates by State

		Cost of a 15-Minute Phone Call by Call Type							
		Collect				Debit or Prepaid			
State	Telephone Company	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate
AK	Securus Technologies	\$0.00	\$2.16	\$4.23	\$17.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AL	Securus Technologies	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$5.25	\$14.15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AR	Global Tel*Link	\$4.80	\$4.80	\$4.80	\$10.70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AZ	Securus Technologies	\$1.84	\$4.50	\$5.40	\$7.80	\$1.60	\$4.20	\$5.10	\$7.50
CA	Global Tel*Link	\$1.45	\$1.45	\$2.03	\$6.65	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
CO		\$6.20	\$6.20	\$6.20	\$17.30	\$3.20	\$3.20	\$3.20	\$4.60
CT	Global Tel*Link	3.55	\$5.20	\$5.20	\$17.30	\$2.66	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$12.98
DC	Inmate Telephone Inc.(ITI)	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30
DE	Pay Tel	\$4.95	\$4.95	\$4.95	\$9.45	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
FL	Securus Technologies	\$0.50	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$0.50	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$1.82
GA	Global Tel*Link	\$2.70	\$4.85	\$4.85	\$17.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
HI		(We have not been able to gather this information.)							
IA	Public Communications Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$2.00	\$4.85	\$5.68	\$7.50
ID	Public Communications Service	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$15.60	\$3.40	\$3.40	\$3.40	\$14.65
IL	Consolidated Communications Public Services, Inc.	(We have not been able to gather this information.)							
IN	Global Tel*Link & Securus Technologies	\$2.95	\$6.75	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$2.95	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75
KS	EMBARQ	\$2.61	\$3.80	\$8.11	\$7.70	\$2.19	\$3.21	\$6.97	\$6.55
KY	Global Tel*Link	\$1.85	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$6.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
LA	Global Tel*Link	\$0.98	\$5.58	\$5.30	\$7.05	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MA	Global Tel*Link	\$2.36	\$2.36	\$2.36	\$13.35	\$1.78	\$1.78	\$1.78	\$10.05
MD	Securus Technologies	\$0.85	\$7.05	\$7.05	\$7.20	\$0.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
ME	(Owned by Department of Corrections)	\$5.30	\$5.30	\$5.30	\$13.35	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50

Continued

Rates by State

		Cost of a 15-Minute Phone Call by Call Type							
		Collect				Debit or Prepaid			
State	Telephone Company	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate	Local	IntraLATA	InterLATA	Interstate
UT	FSH Communications	\$2.80	\$4.17	\$4.17	\$10.31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
VA	Global Tel*Link	\$1.00	\$3.75	\$6.00	\$8.85	\$0.90	\$3.35	\$5.20	\$8.40
VT	Public Communications Service	\$2.30	\$4.70	\$4.70	\$10.75	\$1.98	\$3.11	\$3.11	\$8.10
WA	FSH Communications	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$18.30	\$3.15	\$3.15	\$3.15	\$18.30
WI	EMBARQ	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.70	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.70
WV	Global Tel*Link	\$0.95	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$6.25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WY	Inmate Calling Solutions	\$1.49	\$3.72	\$3.72	\$12.85	\$1.24	\$3.08	\$3.08	\$10.76
* Calls from North Carolina prisons are limited to 10 minutes.									
** Rates for IntraLATA calls vary; rates shown are the highest - for distances greater than 124 miles.									

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

REV. DR. PETER A. ROUNTREE

INMATE AND ATTORNEY

#1004102

FCCW

P.O. Box 1000

TROY, GA 30094

OCTOBER 30, 2012

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI

FCC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

445 12TH ST., SW

WASHINGTON, DC 20554

RE: Public Comment on the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman:

While I have been a rapid advocate of the down-trodden for most of my life, I always believed that the justice system was helping communities - until I became one of the incarcerated 8 yrs. ago. Now, I witness the large and sucking holes filling the correctional system rapidly drain dry the incarcerated and their families.

The current phone system in the prisons proves far too expensive and disruptive for any healthy family system to maintain.

Primarily, it is expensive, costing about \$1.00/minute for me to call family in Texas. This is prohibitive. Secondly, while the world is using cell phones, we cannot call cell phones. I haven't talked to two children in several years because of this restriction. Fix the problem.

Sincerely, Peter Rountree

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

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

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Oct. 28, 2012

Mr. Chairman:

Prisoner rehabilitation has been replaced by economic exploitation at its worst, as private industries lick their chops at the potential profit, with the DOC doing the same at the anticipation of "kick backs disguised as concessions." Its absolutely criminal!

Industry monopoly - in violation of FCC law - and DOC kickbacks, based on percentage of ~~the~~ phone industry profits, guarantee exorbitant phone rates. As phone rates over the last couple of decades have decreased in outside society, they have drastically increased on the inside for prisoners and our families. For all practical purposes, the kickbacks paid to the DOC is a regressive tax because it funds a government agency. Furthermore, it is heaped upon the poorest segment

of society who can ill afford it.
These exorbitant phone rates have greatly decreased communication between my family and me as we are unable to afford regular phone calls (approximately \$6 for twenty minutes), and even for those who can afford them, it's still criminal!

My family and I ask the FCC to remedy this injustice by honoring the Wright Petition. We fully support the Wright Petition and thank all other parties who work to make it a success.

Lastly, we look forward to the FCC to also press the state agencies to reduce intra-state prison phone rates because in some instances, they are just as high as inter-state calls.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Jones # 912612

WRCP/IDOC

P.O. Box 1111

Carlisle, In 47838

To: CHAIRMAN JULIUS BENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

" This is a public comment for the
Whight Petition (cc docket #96-128

DEAR, CHAIRMAN BENACHOWSKI,

The high costs of the prison phone calls have had a dramatic impact on me and my family. I'm in the state of Delaware but I'm from New York City and that's where all my family is, and it's a very high rate to contact my family. The prison phone system is run by "Global Tel Link" (GTL) and the rates are high as gas prices just to talk with my family for a 10 minute phone call. I bring this to your attention in hopes of someone putting an end to the high cost of prison phone calls.

C DANIELS

Jamel
JAMEL DANIELS
J.T.U.C.C
1181 Paddock RD
SMYRNA, DE 19977

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (cc Doc # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

Dear Mr. Chairman Julius Genachowski,

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

I, James V. Whitley, The designer author of this formal complaint, do relay and state clear facts which pertain to him with regard to the ongoing issues with the P.D.C. phone system.

I am currently an inmate being housed in the state of Pennsylvania at SCI Greene.

I am not from this state, but am proud to say that I'm a New Yorker. I've been incarcerated since Oct. 2011, but have been confined in this states system since Jan. 2008.

In the beginning, maybe the first year of my entry into the P.D.C. I was able to exercise my phone privilege on a regular bases. But after I reached a bit over my first year in the state, its become hard on my family to accept my calls... and even harder for them to send me money to call home because of the amount I have to pay for just one 15 minute call. My last call home was nearly a year ago. The price has changed from here to N.Y.C is a high bill, and is literally "6" times the amount of a local (724) call in the Waynesburg PA Area.

I have young children at home that are under the age of 13, and its hard for them to hear my voice because of the price for one 15 minute call. It's nearly \$12.60 to call N.Y., vs. \$1.80 locally in Waynesburg PA.

Recently, I was confined at Muskegon Corr. Fac., at Muskegon Michigan. Their phone system worked to

pulled for proof. This is hard on my family and myself... something needs to change... this is my cry for your help please to respond. Can I link to the system list in writing, or D...
Thank you for your time and concern.

Have a bless day,

James Whittle

Case use list - (JW)

James Victor Whittle

100-118-1369

175 Progress Dr.

Wrightington, PA 15370

(SEE envelope)

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

This is a Public Comment for the Wright Petition (cc Docket# 96-128). There is a serious problem in this country when we are willing allowing not only utilities but also state agencies to deliberately force the families of incarcerated men and women to pay not only more for phone calls than any other population in this country, but such outrageous costs and monopolistic practices as to take unfair advantage at a portion of our population that is usually in the bottom of the economic scale.

I personally have been incarcerated for over 28 years. The costs of collect calls has always been so high, that I had no choice but to limit calls to my family to once a month. Even with the new advent of calling cards, the cost per phone call, (over five dollars), only allows me to make a limited amount of calls due to the fact it cost me between 1/3 and 1/2 of the pay that I make in the prison, depending on the month.

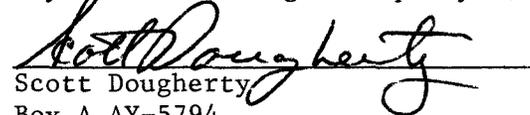
Just recently we were informed that all collect calls must be done by prepaid accounts set up by our families. Neither my family nor my friends have any dealings with this company, Global Tel-Link. There is only one number that I still call collect, and that person is listed as both my emergency contact and my power-of-attorney. The reason this was so important is that at any time the Department of Corrections in Pennsylvania can transfer me to another facility. My account does not automatically follow me nor is my phone card valid in another institution. It may take several weeks before I can receive a phone card.

This contact called Global Tel-Link and was told that she did not have any choice in the matter. If she wanted to talk to me, she had to use their services. I can upon request provide the name of my power-of-attorney. She has never failed to pay a phone bill, has never had any utility shut off and had never defaulted on any type bill or payment. Both she and her husband do not wish to be forced to use this company, and I believe it is against the law to force citizens into monopolistic companies, even if they are in league with the State of Pennsylvania and are receiving kick-backs and profit cuts from the high prices they are charging our families and the forcing of citizens to use only their company if they wish to have contact with their loved ones in prison.

As such, I beg you to please put an end to these practices, that are clearly wrong, illegal, and against every fair practice law in this country.

Thank you for your time and patience concerning this, and I pray that you will strongly consider federal action to put a stop to these practices.

May God's blessings be upon you,



Scott Dougherty
Box A AY-5794
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

PARYL LEMASTER S
PLATTE COUNTY DETENTION CTR.
415 THIRD STREET, SUITE 10
PLATTE CITY, MO 64079
OCTOBER 28, 2012

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENTS
445 12TH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

PLEASE INCLUDE THE ENCLOSED LETTER IN YOUR
WRIGHT PETITION PUBLIC COMMENTS. (CC POCKET #96-128)

RESPECTFULLY



THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION
(CC DOCKET # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

IT IS IMPARTITIVE THAT YOU PUT A STOP TO THESE PRISON PHONE COMPANIES AND THEIR MONOPOLIES THAT ALLOW THEM TO RAPE, ROB AND STEAL FROM LOW INCOME "CAPTIVE" FAMILIES THAT HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY THESE EXORBITANT FEES TO TALK TO THEIR LOVED ONES, OTHERWISE THEY ARE FORCED TO BREAK THE FAMILY CONTACT THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO AN INMATES MENTAL HEALTH AND HIS/HERS REHABILITATION.

PEOPLE CALL THE INMATES CROOKS BUT MOST OF THEM HAVE ONLY ONE VICTIM AND OFTEN THAT VILTIM IS THEMSELVES. THESE PRISON PHONE COMPANIES VICTIMIZE LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF LOW INCOME AND FIXED INCOME FAMILIES EVERY YEAR WHILE THEY LINE THEIR POCKETS AND THEIR CO-CONSPIRATORS POCKETS WITH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

I HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR OVER 21 MONTHS NOW AWAITING TRIAL. I HAVE CONSTANTLY BATTLED WITH SEVERE DEPRESSION AND DAILY, EVEN HOURLY, THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE. I HAVE ONLY TWO FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE OUTSIDE THAT I COULD CONTACT FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT I NEED. ONE OF THEM IS ON DISABILITY AND THE OTHER IS IN HER 70'S LIVING ON A FIXED INCOME. I CANNOT ASK THEM TO PAY THE \$25. THEY CHARGED HER THE ONE TIME I DID CALL HER FOR ONLY A TEN MINUTE CALL. SINCE I AM ON PROTECTIVE CUSTODY I AM NOT ALLOWED TO ATTEND ANY RELIGIOUS MEETINGS WHEN OR IF THEY HAVE ONE. WITHOUT THE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT OF MY AUNT I FIND IT ALMOST IMPOSSABLE TO FIND THE WILL TO GET THROUGH THE DAY, BUT I CANNOT ASK HER TO PAY THE \$25.00 FOR JUST A TEN MINUTE PHONE CALL AND SINCE I HAVE BEEN INDIGEN FOR ALL BUT SIX WEEKS OF THE 91 WEEKS I CANNOT PAY FOR

THE CALL MY SELF.

ALSO THESE COMPANIES CHARGE THEIR FLAT FEE THE MOMENT YOUR PARTY ACCEPTS THE CALL WHETHER YOU GET CUT OFF OR COMPLETE YOUR TIME. I HAVE WATCHED A MENTALLY ILL MAN CALL HIS WIFE IN FLORIDA FIVE TIMES IN ONE DAY ONLY TO BE ALLOWED TO TALK FOR A COMBINED TIME OF LESS THAN 15 MINUTES, HER CELL PHONE DROPPED TWO OF THE CALLS AND THE GUARDS FORCED HIM TO LOCK DOWN TWICE DURING HIS ONLY HOUR OUT OF HIS CELL WHERE HE HAD ACCESS TO THE PHONE. HE TOLD ME IT COST HIS UNEMPLOYED WIFE OVER \$75 THAT ONE DAY ALSO LOCAL CALLS THAT ARE FREE TO THE JAIL COST THE INMATE \$10.00 FOR UP TO TEN MINUTES. THAT'S MORE THAN A DOLLAR A MINUTE

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION GOES AFTER AND REGULATES THINGS THAT PEOPLE VOLUNTARILY GIVE THEIR MONEY TO, YOU NEED TO LIMIT WHAT THESE PRISON PHONE CROOKS CAN CHARGE LOW INCOME "CAPTIVE" FAMILIES THAT HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY THOSE EXORBITANT AND OUTRAGEOUS FEES TO OR LOSE CONTACT AND THEIR HOPE, EVEN THEIR WILL TO LIVE BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO CALL THEIR LOVED ONES
YOU MUST HELP THESE PEOPLE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012 November 1, 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: This is a Public Comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing this missive to share with you the severe hardship that my family and I continue to experience as a result of the exorbitant phone rates the Illinois Department (IDOC) and Consolidated Communications are charging inmates and their families and to ask for government regulations to impose price caps on long distant and local prison telephone rates.

During the past several years, due to the exorbitant phone rates, my family has been forced to limit the number of face to face visits from once per month to once every other month. In addition, because of the extremely high cost off phone calls I am only able to call twice per month. But one of the most difficult hardships is that, as an inmate, I am forced to pay for these calls to my children out of my monthly prison wages to ensure that my family and I continue to communicate in order to provide the moral support that is needed during a period when a loved one is incarcerated. One egregious act by the phone company is that a \$3.00 surcharge is taken out of each pre-paid amount sent each month just to post payment to the phone account. By having to pay for these calls and the surcharge for each posting, it limits the amount of money I can save to prepare for my release and increase the chance that I will have a successful reintegration.

From an empirical standpoint, exorbitant phone rates make the prison telephone industry one of the most lucrative businesses in the United States today. This begs the question, "why is such a business so lucrative"? The answer is quite simple- the industry is so profitable because prison phone companies have state-sanctioned monopolistic control over the prison markets. In a study conducted by Paul R Zimmerman and Susan M.V. Flaherty published in the Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, titled "Location Monopolies and Prison Phone Rates", Zimmerman and Flaherty identify prison telephone companies as having "Location Monopolies", i.e. the telephone service provider is the exclusive provider for all the prisons within a state.

Prison phone companies are awarded monopolies through bidding processes in which they submit contract proposals to the state prison system. In all but eight states, (see attached data) these contracts include provision to pay commissions- in effect, **Kickbacks**-in the form of a percentage of revenue, a fixed up-front payment, or a combination of the two. This engenders a state prison system that have no incentive to select the telephone company that offers the lowest rates; rather, they have a deeply

imbued incentive to reap the most profit by selecting the company that provides the highest kickback. The fact that the IDOC has an incentive to select the highest bidder and the actual consumers (the families of inmates) have no input in the bidding process makes the prison telephone industry susceptible to prices that are well above the phone rates of non-incarcerated persons.

What deeply saddens me most is the fact that these phone companies and I.D.O.C. “prey” on the families of inmates because they are well aware of the need for incarcerated persons and their families to speak with one another, which in turn leads to exorbitant rates. The prison telephone market is structured to be exploitative because it grants monopolies to the producers (Prison phone Companies), and because the consumers- the incarcerated persons and their families who are actually paying the bills- have no comparable alternative means of communicating. Historically, it is a well documented fact that incarcerated persons have well below-average literacy rates (approximately 6th grade education) that make it less practical to communicate in writing. Moreover, it is extremely difficult for families of incarcerated persons to pay for phone calls because people in prison tend to come from low-income households. A study of recently released inmates from Illinois prisons by Nancy G. La Vigne, Rebecca L. Naser, Lisa E. Brooks, and Jennifer L. Castro, “Examining the Effect of Incarceration and In-Prison Family Contact on Prisoners”, found that the high cost of prison phone calls was one of the two most significant barriers to family contact during incarceration

Exorbitant phone rates are not only bad for incarcerated persons and their families, but also bad for society at large. High phone rates reduce the ability of incarcerated persons to communicate with their families, and family contact has been consistently shown to lower recidivism. The I.D.O.C. presumably, has as its goal an interest in reducing the rate of recidivism among inmates. Practices like the prison phone exploitation of low-income families described in this letter clearly do not support that goal, nor does it demonstrate any interest in improving the reputation of I.D.O.C. as an agency that prepares inmates to successfully matriculate into society.

It is clear that the prison telephone market is broken. It is well known that markets for goods and services work best when consumers have the freedom to select the best viable option. However, in the Prison phone Market, consumers have no choice as to which telephone company they use. That choice is made for them by each State Prison System. But State Prison Systems cannot be expected to advocate for lower phone rates because they don't have the consumer interests in mind. Moreover, prison telephone companies have little incentive to provide reasonable rates to their customers simply because they do not have to answer to those customers.

My position is that these exorbitant rates result from the monopolistic market itself. The combination of Corporate Consolidation in the Prison phone Industry and state-sanctioned monopolies has led to exorbitant pricing. In many states, families of people incarcerated must pay approximately \$15 for a fifteen to thirty minute phone call. For my family, trying to stay in touch on a regular basis is often backbreaking.

Because phone rates vary widely between states, (see attached) even between states that use the same prison phone company, a nationwide government regulation is most appropriate. For example, a fifteen-minute long distant phone call from Global Tel*Link costs \$2.36 in Massachusetts, but the same call costs more than \$17 in Georgia. This significant difference in rates originates in large part from the wide range (between 15%-60%) in the size of kickbacks that prison phone companies pay to state governments.

What is so ironic about these exorbitant rates is that phone companies and state prison officials use different arguments to defend the high rates. The prison phone companies argue that the rates must be high in order to cover the cost associated with providing secure telephone service, such as "call monitoring". However, this argument is totally and categorically refuted by the phone rates charged in the state of New York's prison system. This is because New York law bans kickbacks and requires that the lowest possible cost to the user shall be emphasized. Currently, Global Tel*Link charges incarcerated individuals and their families approximately \$0.05 per minutes for a local and long distant calls from New York prisons. Thus, low rates in the prison phone market are entirely consistent with call monitoring and other security measures. Correctional officials argue that phone kickback revenue pays for prison amenities that otherwise go unfunded by state legislatures and use this excuse as the bulwark for the exorbitant rates. My position is that this argument fails to stand up to scrutiny when one considers that the Federal Prison System charges comparatively low rates, \$0.06/minute for local calls and \$0.23/minute for long-distant calls, yet still generates enormous revenue. A recent Government Accountability Office Report indicated the federal prison phone rates were sufficient to cover cost plus generate \$34 million in profit for fiscal year 2010.

There are other considerations that need to be recognized. First and foremost, lowering phone rates would lead to increased contact between incarcerated people and their families in addition to increased contact with their children. This in turn would lead to improved parent-child relationships by allowing more frequent calls.

Finally, the sole federal agency with authority to rein in prison phone rates on a national level has thus far failed to provide meaningful relief to the families of incarcerated individuals who are, for the most part, low-income families. The good news is that, fortunately, government regulations can help with this problem. The Federal Communications Commission should set regulations to impose a price cap on long distant prison phone rates. Such regulations, when considered against the backdrop of the corporate monopolization of the prison telephone market, would both reduce the price-gouging that incarcerated person and their families suffer, and simultaneously contribute to the social good by reducing recidivism. There are far too many reasons that benefit society and those families that have a loved one incarcerated as to why regulation is needed to set price caps on calls provided by prison phone companies. Prison profiteering against the most vulnerable in our society should not be tolerated and a clear message should be sent to those who try to take advantage of those families that are helpless and have no other alternative. It is my hope that you will seriously consider such regulation in order to give hope to those that are forlorn.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration. I remain.

Ralph Hrobowski
Reg. # N91289
2600 N. Brinton Ave
Dixon, IL. 61021

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

Received & Inspected

NOV - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing this letter to your office in the hopes of sharing my story to shed some light on the impact of the high cost of the phone calls throughout the D.O.C. and how it has effected me and my family's lives.

I have been incarcerated for 6 years and the phone calls have been me and my family's main source of communication, however, through the years the rates have reached an unreasonable rate that my family nor myself can afford. There have been numerous occasions where I've missed important events, due to not being able to purchase a card at that time.

I've had collect services on my family's phone all of the years I've been incarcerated. We some how managed the cost of those calls, however, do to this new system (Global Tel Link) if your family does not set up an account with them you are not able to call home to your love ones collect. I don't understand how after all these years the institution is allowed to extort our families into using a service they are in business with when they already have a service of their own.

I only make 24cent a hour and that comes to about \$26.00 a month if that, there is no way that I could afford to call home to my mother in Philadelphia at the rate of \$5.41 a call, let alone my children in New Jersey, which is a \$9.00 call not including taxes. Its barely enough to get the necessities. We are also being taxed wnen we purchase the card and when we make the call. There has to be a better way and I humbly request that your office look into this matter,

and I thank you in advance for your time, and assistance.

Sincerely,

Anthony Howard

#HN-6170

1100 Pike Street

Huntingdon, Pa. 16654

SCI Huntingdon

