

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

October 28, 2012

FCC  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear FCC:

I am a prisoner in Washington State. I read an editorial in the New York Times (September 24, 2012), involving phone costs for prisoners and their families being invested by the FCC.

In this state, the Department of Corrections (D.O.C.), has a policy (452.200 (2)(B)), that states in pertinent part: "The Department will ensure that: [Phone] Contracts are based on rates and surcharges that are commensurate with those charged to the general public for like services. Any deviation from ordinary consumer rates reflects actual costs associated with providing services in a correctional setting." In this policy there are no distinctions made between interstate and intrastate phone calls. For over 30 years my wife and I have had to average over \$80.00 in payments per month for intrastate phone calls (to try to maintain our marriage of 39 years). It is also the only way I have of staying informed of my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's well being.

My point is - This state sanctioned extortion of millions of dollars per year through contractual kickbacks of Americans should not be allowed even if they are intrastate calls. Although some of our costs relates to interstate calls, the vast majority of our costs are from intrastate phone calls. The rates have varied over the years, from approximately \$25.00 for a local call of 20 minutes, to the still draconian rates of approximately \$2.50 for a 20 minute local phone call.

Please cover intrastate phone calls (if you are not all ready). I have grieved this through regular channels, and have been denied even a review of the issue.

Additionally, when D.O.C. was going through their certification process with the American Corrections Association (ACA), I filed a complaint on the above issues with the ACA. I knew the state and D.O.C. specifically were hoping to lower their insurance costs (as a result of being certified). I spoke to an ACA auditor, and wrote the corporate office. They refused to respond. When I looked into the ACA, I discovered that, at this time, Harold Clark was the President of the ACA, and at the top position (Secretary), at Washington D.O.C. I believe this conflict of interest allowed for the extortion rates that provided kickbacks (in their contractual agreements with the phone company), to D.O.C., and now straight into the state's coffers, in spite of their own standards and policies.

This extortion of millions of dollars each year, from those who are traditionally the poorest in our state, is not only immoral, it is an horrific way to treat our families. Please take the above into consideration, and help us stop the interstate and intrastate, policy and

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Dear 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 D.O.C. doing the same at the anticipation of "kickbacks disguised as concessions." It's absolutely criminal!

Industry monopoly - in violation of FCC law - and Doc kickbacks, based on percentage of phone industry profits, guaranteed exorbitant phone rates. As phone rates over the last couple of decades have decreased in outside society, they have drastically increased on the inside system for prisoners and our families. For all practical purposes, the kickbacks paid to the Doc, is a regressive take 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 \$6.00 for only 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 will make it a success. Lastly, we look forward to the FCC to also press the state agencies over

to reduce intra-state Prison Phones rates  
because in some instances,  
they are just as high as inter-state calls.

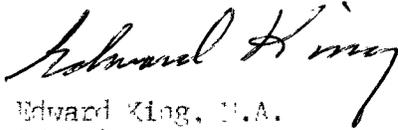
Respectfully submitted,  
~~Victor Ponce M~~

statue violations that are abusing our friends and family. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) at 9.73.095 (2)(a), and the Session Laws of Washington State at 2004 Chapter 13 § 1, both try to eliminate these kickbacks. If the law was merely adhered to, surely this extortion would be stopped.

Will you tell me:

1. What is the status of your investigation?
2. When do you think the investigation might be completed?
3. Where might I write to get a copy of your results?
4. Will you cover intrastate calls as well as interstate calls?

Sincerely,



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