

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET # 12-1000) Received & Inspected

JAN - 3 2013

DEAR CHARIMAN GENACHOWSKI,

FCC Mail Room

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE CREDITED THAT WORKED TO PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE OUR CRY FOR RELIEF. I AM AN INMATE IN TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE. OUR CURRENT PHONE RATES ARE 23¢ PREPAID OR 26¢ COLLECT PER MINUTE CALL WITHIN THE STATE OF TEXAS. OUT OF STATE CALLS COST 39¢ PREPAID AND 41¢ COLLECT PER MINUTE. THESE CURRENT RATES ARE REFLECTIVE OF CELLPHONE RATES OF THE VERY EARLY 1990'S. BACK THEN, I WAS A MEDIUM LEVEL DRUG DEALER MAKING OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND A YEAR ILLEGALLY. AND, IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE, I COULD HAVE NEVER AFFORDED THE PHONE SERVICE. WHILE, CORPORATE EXECUTIVES WERE THE ONLY ONES ABLE TO FISCALLY AFFORD THOSE EXORBITANT PHONE RATES OF YESTER YEAR. MY POINT IS THAT THE PRICE OF CELLPHONES HAS DROPPED EXPONENTIALLY, YET THE ARCHAIC TECHNOLOGY OF PAYPHONE SERVICE IN PRISON HAS CONTINUED TO RISE TO A LEVEL THAT ONLY THE RICH AND FEW CAN AFFORD TO USE THEM.

NOT ONLY ARE THE PRISON PHONE RATES OUTRAGEOUSLY HIGH, THERE ARE MANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAT ADD TO THE COST OF COMMUNICATING WITH PRISONERS. SUCH AS TO REQUIRE THAT INMATE FAMILIES MUST HAVE A RESIDENTIAL LANDLINE OR A POSTPAID CELLPHONE THAT HAS AN ANNUAL CONTRACT ALL CONTRIBUTES TO THE FINANCIAL BURDENS OUR FAMILIES MUST INCUR. I KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT I MUST PAY FOR THE DEBTS OF MY WRONGFUL DOINGS, BUT IT IS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE TO PUNISH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS THAT CHOOSE TO SUPPORT AND LOVE US. THEY SUFFER DAILY ALONG WITH US, AND TO HEAR US CALL AND TELL THEM THAT WE ARE OK AND THAT WE LOVE THEM TOO, PROVIDES A SMALL AMOUNT OF RELIEF TO THEIR SUFFERINGS.

PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THIS IS NOT AN INMATE ISSUE, BUT AN ISSUE OF MAFIA LIKE RACKETEERING THAT DRAINS LAW ABIDING CITIZENS FROM GET FAIR MARKET VALUE OF A NECESSITY CALLED PHONE SERVICE, EVENTHOUGH THE PEOPLE THEY ARE COMMUNICATING WITH ARE PRISONERS.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR THIS FORUM TO BRING ATTENTION AND AWARENESS TO THE MODERN DAY SCAM OF OVERPRICING A SERVICE THAT HAS BEEN OBSOLETE FOR YEARS. MY PRAYERS ARE FOR ADEQUATE RELIEF AS TO A PHONE RATE THAT IS AS AFFORDABLE TO PRISONERS AS WELL AS THE EVERYDAY CITIZEN WHICH HAS TO PARTAKE OF SUCH SAME SERVICE.

SINCERELY,

AUDI NGUYEN # 922142
1100 FM 655 - RAMSEY
ROSHARON, TX
77583

JAN - 3 2013

FCC Mail Room

Chairman-Julius Genachowski

This is a comment for the petition on Wright (CC Pocket # 96-128)

I saw the notice to write about the phone problem and felt compelled to write in relation to myself and how it effects me. I nor my family or rich. And we must put a limit on the call/calls I place to them within a month. Usually its one call every (30) days, or more. Depending on a holiday or if a persons Birthday falls within the said (30) day timeframe. My Grandmother once noted that it cost more for me to call from within the prison then it would cost if I placed a called right around the corner from it. I hope you can do something to combat this in the future.

Well that enjoy your day.

Robert G. Sindley
 PBSP
 729387

STATE PRISON
 HOUSING UNIT
 UNIT C-729387

FR: Mr TORRINO LEON Young
[Elephant - 7870: CL-121
P.B.S.P. P.O. Box 7500
Crescent City, CA 95532-7000

* THIS IS A public Comment *
for the "Wright Petition"
(CC Pocket #96-128)

To: CHAIRMAN Julius Genovese
F.C.C., Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20551
Received & Inspected

"DECLARATION"

JAN - 3 2013

FCC Mail Room

I, TORRINO LEON Young, AM A RESIDENT OF Pelican Bay State Prison, in the county of Del Norte, State of California. I AM OVER the age of eighteen (18) years and AM A party to this Action So Stipulated below:

I HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED since 1989 - (2012) Sentenced at 20 yrs old. In the County of Los Angeles, California. (As A first timer at 19 - To LWOP). I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT AT the following prisons: San Quentin (90-91); P.B.S.P (91-93), CCI (Tahachapi) (93-99); CENTINELA (99-2004); SALINAS (SVSP) (2004-08); CARLOTAN (SHU-2008-2009) AND Pelican Bay (SHU) - All the times During my GENERAL POPULATION STAY (90-2008) MY FAMILY PHONE BILLS WOULD BE "EXTREMELY (RIDICULOUS) HIGH!" Sir! - For I know you can only imagine WITH my sentence status and distance... BETWEEN MY Beloved Ones Just, OFFERING Comforting Words (Al. The passing of A loved one(s)).

I tell you my family panel RESIDING over the Petition Above. (Wright Petition) THAT AS AN INCARCERATED "HUMAN BEING" (Still) I HAVE BEEN subjected to Intentionally to SEVERAL - DISCONNECTED (While in the middle of A CONVERSATION) Phone Calls! BY State Employees - Correctional Staff, "Sentimental" or "Frivolous" As, You or Staffs HAVE YOUR Opinions! (As, I HAVE MINDS) REGARDING these phone calls. I tell you and all... THATS one thing you do not want to do! "Disconnect" A HUMAN BEING / PERSONS talking to his Aging Parents, wife, Children, etc. etc. (Lawyer)... when they attempting resolve a matter, THATS BE AN stressing them out! since visit! and/or A letter received. For I HAVE BEEN ONCE or TWICE Lost MY Composure! AT THE Tower office(s) (while OPERATING the "ON" and off" switches) in the Control booth! (Knowing, incarcerated I have only 15min. to make contact / relay message / say their piece)... These officials ARE QUICK to claim that the ph. automatically shuts off (on it own!) SHALL they witness their BARKING UP THE wrong TREE. MY Beloved Ones, Counseled me on these Occasions, for I am not the type that just picks on somebody. * THE IT Companies! and CCCR! ARE IN BED... on these "PRICE Gouging Acts (of Extorting/Siphoning... Money! from the Prisoners family(s))"

AS, it is NO! SECRET... ONE(S) ARE ONLY to utilize A "Collect" PAY-PHONE! Having no other means other than HANDWRITING! AND Lord, DON'T HAVE A medical Issue! Arthritis, etc. (RECOMMENDATION ARE UNLIKELY: "OVERCROWDING ISSUES! +/- STATES LACK OF FUNDS (DEFICIT)):

WHEREFORE, THIS HUMAN BEING & GODS MAKING... Plea to you to RECONSIDER your Godly-like position! Over the Common Citizens, most of them could even once been your Lower Neighbors. (Biblical essence!) - And full Grant the HUMAN NEEDS (one barely... Have left!) - BEARING in mind... How CA, just incorporated the [REHABILITATION of CCR], PLACE of BUSINESS! - And when you think DEEPLY about: CITIZEN ARE PAYING TAXES, BEYOND the EXTREME! - IS A call TO GET THIS! ONLY TO BE cutoff. IS (RECENTLY) NO FRESH 15min. Plus, the cost PER. minute! - B 5.00 x (per min) x YR / DECADES (no savings) only, in Intentional gouging

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and executed at Crescent City, CA 95532. on December 22, 2012. TORRINO LEON Young

MR. CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENTS
445 12TH ST. S.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

DEC 3 2013

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

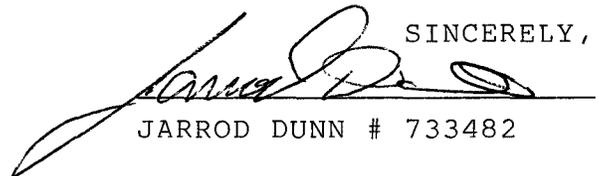
12/26/12

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRITE PETITION (CC/ DOCKET
96-128)

I would like to let whomever it concerns know that the phone rates, and the way they are handled is very hard on me and my family. In the Texas Prison system we have to pay .23¢ a minute if it's from our Prisoner account and .26¢ if we call collect. Also, the only way we can call collect is if we or our family "pay forward" on their account. Like now I can't call because it says, "that number is restricted", but my family, nor myself don't owe them ANYTHING! I think that \$6-7.00 per call (20 min.) is crazy expensive. Even though we have phones, it's almost just too costly to even use them, especially when, like my parents, your loved one is disabled and lives on disability. They can't even afford to come visit, now they can't afford to even TALK on the phone to them! It's just not right.

Thank you very much for any and all help yyou can give. God Bless!

JARROD DUNN # 733482
HUGHES UNIT
RT 2 BOX 4400
GATESVILLE, TEXAS
76597

SINCERELY,

JARROD DUNN # 733482

Received & inspected

JAN - 3 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 20, 2012

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Agency Representative:

I am contacting you to alert you of the exorbitant, outrageous pricing monopolized by PCS, a phone service provider within the jail / prison / correction system. The Chemung County Jail currently uses PCS, although the phone equipment is labelled AGM. For a 15 minute phone call, local rates are 5.25 - 6.25, NYC and mid-atlantic states 10.00 and up, CA and the west coast are over 10.00 up to 15.00.

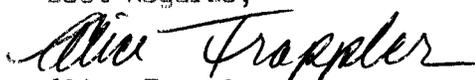
The families of the individuals confined in the jail setting are responsible for paying these fixed, outrageous prices. Many of the individuals confined in the facility are detained awaiting trial and are given no alternative option to try to keep their lives together; keep in contact with their families, neighbors or co-workers. PCS and companies like them are exploiting often impoverished families. They are unashamedly exploiting people during a time of distress, uncertainty and heavy burden.

There are no alternative options such as calling card use or reverse collect calls at the Chemung County Jail, which would be substantially less expensive. PCS calls are often "dropped" or when the receiving party accepts the call, the calling party is unable to be heard. Refunds and credits are NOT granted for the high priced calls. The full amount is still taken from the phone account. (see PCS account number 507 458 5445 pin number 8848 for verification)

My second reason for contacting you is to obtain regulations or guidelines regarding the percentage of prices I have indicated which may go to the correction facility contracting PCS or companies like them. I ask because in 9NYCRR Code of Minimum Standards it clearly states any profit from inmate accounts is to be used for the rehabilitation of inmates and inmate programs. Unfortunately, at the Chemung County Jail, this does not happen. There are no rehabilitative classes, counselors or programs to address the prevalent and pervasive issues, such as drug addiction, both prescription medications and illicit drugs, lack of skills training or basic education and breakdown of the family structure. I would like to request any mandates, restrictions or prohibitions which apply to the facility itself for adding to the cost of calls or getting kickback incentives for using the high priced carrier PCS. If facility skimmed money was supposed to be utilized for these type of programs and has not been, I feel it is important to address this.

Thank you for your time and attention to this problem. Please intervene and examine this gross exploitation for the many people in distressing situations who cannot right this wrong or speak for themselves.

Best Regards,


Alice Trappler



Gerald T. Jankowski
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01JA6191532 Chemung County
Commission Expires August 18, 2016

12-21-2012

pg 1 of 3

12/20/12

FCC - PCS Fixed Rate Exploitation

| PRINT NAME | Signature | CONTACT INFORMATION |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Alice Trappier | <i>Alice Trappier</i> | 211 William St Elmira NY 14901 270 Cort 101, Addison NY 14801. (607) 458-544 |
| Samantha Lintke | <i>Samantha Lintke</i> | 5191 Booring Run Rd. Gillett, PA 16905 |
| Bre'Ona Brown | <i>Bre'Ona Brown</i> | 813 ewaterst elmira ny 14901 |
| Dawn Hawkins | <i>Dawn Hawkins</i> | 514 W. Church St. Apt. 2 Elmira, NY 14901 |
| Staci VanGorden | <i>Staci VanGorden</i> | 703 Southport St. Apt A Elmira, NY 14904 |
| Susan Roberts | <i>Susan Roberts</i> | 367 Norton St. Elmira, NY 14901 (607) 483-4706 |
| Melissa Casbolt | <i>Melissa Casbolt</i> | 365 West Water Street Elmira NY 14905 (607) 821-421 |
| Paige Johnson | <i>Paige Johnson</i> | 162 Cooper Ave. Elmira, NY 14905 315-411-9900 |
| Deanna Barham | <i>Deanna Barham</i> | 418 County Rt 1 Valois NY 14841 |
| Lisa Barham | <i>Lisa Barham</i> | 211 Williams St Elmira NY 14901 |
| EVE HARRIS | <i>Eve Harris</i> | 1008 PRATT ST APT A ELMIRA N.Y. 14901 |
| Owanda Zimmerman | <i>Owanda Zimmerman</i> | 589 Thompson St. Elmira NY 14904 (607) 731-5830 |
| Rebecca Stephens | <i>Rebecca Stephens</i> | 960 Oak St. Elmira, NY 14901 |
| Judy Wade | <i>Judy Wade</i> | 312 Orchard St. Elmira, NY 14901 |
| Kimberly Jascyn | <i>Kimberly Jascyn</i> | 312 Orchard St. Elmira, NY 14901 |
| Jack Mortensen | <i>Jack Mortensen</i> | 4450 St Rt. 364 Ca. NY, 14424 |
| Dawn Rossman | <i>Dawn Rossman</i> | 1874 Davis St, #4 Elmira NY 14901 |
| Bobbi Braun | <i>Bobbi Braun</i> | 211 William St Elmira NY 14901 |
| Donise Fleming | <i>Donise Fleming</i> | 211 William St. Elmira NY 14901 |
| Zantaisha Graham | <i>Zantaisha Graham</i> | 368 ^ FULTON ST. ELMIRA NY 14905 |
| Catherine Walker | <i>Catherine Walker</i> | 1e Antes Road, Pine City, NY 14871 |
| Joanna Morin | <i>Joanna Morin</i> | 423 Standish Street, Elmira NY 14901 |
| Elaine Laurie | <i>Elaine Laurie</i> | 715 715 E. Washington St Elmira NY 14901 |
| Katie Mandeville | <i>Katie Mandeville</i> | 21 William St, Elmira NY 14901 |
| Yashica Sparoane | <i>Yashica Sparoane</i> | 211 William Street Elmira, n.y. 14901 |
| Tina M. Hoose | <i>Tina M. Hoose</i> | 21 Lee St. P.O. Box 63 Pine Valley N.Y. 14872 (607) 739-051 |
| Sasha L. Barrett | <i>Sasha L. Barrett</i> | 802 Sullivan St., Elmira, N.Y., 14901 |
| Heather Johnson | <i>Heather Johnson</i> | 609 Walnut St Elmira NY, 14901 |

12/26/12

FCC - PCS FIXED RATE EXPLOITATION

PRINT
NAME
Brandi
white
Priscilla
Porter
Angel Davis

Signature
Brandi White
Priscilla Porter
Angela Davis

CONTACT INFORMATION
512 Madison Ave Elmira, NY 14901
417 W Fourth Elmira, NY 14901
1859 Davis St. Elmira N.Y. 14901

Received & Inspected

JAN - 3 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 27, 2012

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th St

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Agency Representative:

I sent prior correspondence to your office dated 12/20/12 regarding phone service provider PCS providing service to prisons / jails / correction facilities, specifically, Chemung County Jail in Elmira, NY. In that correspondence, I outlined concerns including the outrageously high fixed pricing, no alternative calling options and no refund or reimbursement of dropped calls or failed connections.

I am contacting you to provide additional information about PCS fee required to place money on a PCS account. Several stores such as Wegmans Market, Family Dollar and Walmart offer a moneygram service to add funds to a PCS account. When placing money on the phone account through these retail stores, the fee is \$6.95 to place a minimum of \$25.00 on the phone account. When using a credit card at any of the retail locations, the mandatory fee is \$8.00 to put a minimum of \$25.00 on the phone account. When calling PCS to add money to the phone account, the same mandatory fees apply; \$6.95 with a method other than credit card and \$7.95 fee when using a credit card. These mandatory "fees" for placing money on the phone account is in addition to the already exorbitant rates for a 15 minute call of \$5.25 - \$6.25 for local calls, \$10.00 and up for NYC and mid-atlantic states (including PA which is less than ten miles from the facility) and \$15.00 to CA and the west coast.

The core complaint and concern requiring your intervention is the fixed outrageous prices. The people being exploited are often impoverished families already under distress and heavy burden. PCS in conjunction with Chemung County Jail are knowingly and shamelessly price gouging those already in a place of disadvantage, experiencing painful emotional separation from families and are under pressure to pay the high prices to maintain contact and manage their life from confined circumstances. My secondary concern was the percentage of these fees and high prices being taken by the correction facility as a kickback incentive to host PCS within the facility. In the 12/20/12 correspondence, I detailed the code requiring the facility to utilize money from "inmate accounts" directly for the rehabilitative programs for inmates. This is not occurring at the Chemung County Facility.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this problem. Please intervene and examine this gross exploitation for the many people who cannot right this wrong or speak for themselves.

Over

Best Regards,

Alice Trappler

Alice Trappler

Gerald T. Jankowski

Gerald T. Jankowski
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01JA6191532 Chemung County
Commission Expires August 18, 2016

12-26-2012

A. Trappler
211 William St
Elmira NY
14901

Ricardo Cortez #143873
Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility
PO Box 1000
Crowley, CO 81034

Received & Inspected

JAN 04 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 17, 2012

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

Re: "Public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket 96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

My name is Ricardo Cortez and I am an inmate in the Colorado Department of Corrections. I work in the prison library and make the standard \$0.60 per day which comes to about \$13.00 per month. However, 20% of my state pay is deducted for the restitution in my criminal case which then leaves me with an average of \$10.00 per month. I strongly believe that \$0.60 for a day's work is tantamount to slavery, but that is not why I am writing you this letter. Some inmates only make \$5.00 per month.

A 20-minute phone call to hear my daughter's voice costs me \$3.25. This is close to half of my monthly income. In a world of unlimited long distance and mobile internet, it is incredible to believe that \$3.25 for a 20-minute phone call is somehow justifiable. A few phone calls per month and I'd be left with \$0.00 to buy even the necessary hygiene for personal use. God forbid I get ill and have to pay the \$3.00 co-pay to see the prison medical staff. There is no reason to punish inmates further since we are already in prison. Family contact is critical for an inmate's rehabilitative goals and paramount for a successful re-entry into society. I would think in the best interest of the public, DOC would encourage family contact, not deter it.

I believe that with lower phone rates, the phone companies that sign contracts with the various DOCs nationwide, would actually experience an increase in earnings due to a higher volume of inmates making phone calls. \$3.25 is a fortune for an inmate making \$10.00 per month. The time has come to break up what amount to monopolies and injustices from the various DOCs, jails, and greedy phone companies nationwide. The prison phone industry abuses must end. My daughter deserves to speak to her father more often. Nelson Mandela once said you could tell a lot about a country by how it treats its prisoners. I urge you to help end the practice of exorbitant rates for phone calls made by prisoners. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Cortez

①

12/24/16

Received & Inspected

JAN - 4 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski
This is a public comment for the
WRISHI Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

Chairman Genachowski, Please
HELP US!! We need the Commission
HELP VERY BADLY!! I realize we
are prisoners and have very little
rights left in our lives. But it
is our family who suffer the
most with this terrible rip-off!
It is their hard earned money
that is being ripped off!! There
are many, many family members
that are on very tight budgets
or fixed incomes!!

Please HELP US and have the
Commission STOP this rip-off!
The officials in the Dept of Correction
here in Alaska have made the
Threator comment, IF the FCC cuts
back the price on long distance calls
that will raise the cost of in-state
calls!! SO A LOT OF PRISONERS THAT
ONLY CALL IN-STATE DO NOT WANT
TO COMPLAIN!! IT IS THIS TYPE OF
INTIMIDATION THAT IS USED TO PROTECT
THE STATES MONOPOLY!

(2)

ALSO IN OUR CASE HERE IN ALASKA
THE SAME COMPANY WHO HAS THE WHOLE
PHONE SYSTEM IN ALL THE JAILS AND
PRISONS. ALSO HAS KIOSKS FOR ALL
THE MUSIC AND MP3 PLAYERS. THAT SYSTEM
IS CALLED ACCESS CORRECTIONS A
SECURE MEDIA SYSTEM. THEY
CHARGE \$1.60 PER SONG AND \$33.75
FOR THE PLAYER ITSELF!! ALSO THE
SERVICE IS VERY BAD! THE KIOSK
IS DOWN MOST OF THE TIME. PLUS IF
YOU TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PRISON THEY
CHARGE \$15.00 TO TRANSFER YOUR PLAYER
TO THAT OTHER PRISON!

YES IT IS TRUE WE DO NOT HAVE
TO HAVE MUSIC. BUT IT IS JUST LIKE
THE PHONE SYSTEM. WE SHOULD NOT BE
RIPPED OFF IF WE DO USE THE SYSTEM!

ABOUT MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
JUST THE OTHER DAY I RECEIVED A
LETTER FROM MY 80 YEAR OLD MOM.
SHE HAD JUST SENT THE PHONE COMPANY
A CHECK FOR \$41.94. THAT WAS FOR
"ONE" 30 MIN PHONE CALL FROM ME
HERE AT SPRING CREEK TO WEST PLAINS
MISSOURI. WHICH IS A TERRIBLE COST
FOR THEM!

JUST THINK \$41.94 FOR A 30 MIN CALL IN THIS DAY AND AGE!! I WOULD THINK CHARGING LIKE THAT, WOULD BE ILLEGAL!!

THERE ARE MANY OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS I CAN NO LONG^{ER} CALL! BECAUSE OF THE PRICE OF ONE CALL!! AGAIN, I REALIZE WE ARE PRISONERS AND LOST OUR RIGHTS TO MANY THINGS BUT ARE FAMILY + FRIENDS SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED!!

PLEASE, PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS TERRIBLE R.P. OFF!!

BY THE WAY, MY MOM + DAD'S PHONE IS 417-256-8499. ALSO WHEN MY PARENTS CALL THE PRISON PHONE SYSTEM IN DALLAS, TX. THEY GET PUT ON HOLD FOR AN HOUR OR MORE AND MOST OF THE TIME MY PARENTS NEVER DO GET TO TALK TO ANYONE. THERE ARE MANY OF TIMES MY PARENTS PHONE IS BLOCKED FROM RECEIVING A CALL FROM ME. MY PARENTS ALWAYS PAY ARI MONEY DUE, IN A VERY FAST WAY.

MICHAEL DENEY #1925864
SPRING BRACK CORRECTIONAL CENTER
3600 BETTE CUTO

SEWARD, ALASKA 99664

THANK YOU
MIKE DENEY

Received & Inspected

JAN - 4 2013

FCC Mail Room

Received & Inspected

JAN - 4 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 28, 2012

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski,

I would like to bring to your attention the outrageously exorbitant prison phone rates that are in place in the State of Illinois as well as in other states across the nation.

For the past 30 plus years I have been in communication with my friend who is an inmate at Dixon Correctional Center in Dixon, Illinois. We have been talking on the phone all this time and the rates I have had to pay the phone company, Consolidated Communications, have been huge.

It is my understanding that the prison system awards monopolies to the phone companies through contracts with the state prison system in which the prison reaps the benefits through "commissions" (aka kickbacks), or in the form of a percentage of the revenue, or a combination of the two.

Meanwhile neither the inmates nor their friends or families have any choice in which phone service providers will be used. They (we) are literally at the mercy of the big phone monopolies with their voices not being heard in the process.

Not only is this practice brutally unfair, but it is also very costly for families of prisoners, many of whom are on a fixed income, or not in a position financially to afford the rates. Communication with families on the outside has been shown to be instrumental in curbing the rate of recidivism among the inmates. And both the Democratic party and the Republican party have initiatives in place to decrease the rate of recidivism and the lowering of prison phone rates ensuring continued contact with the prisoners' families, would help to achieve this goal.

I would urge you, Mr. Genachowski, and the FCC to institute the proposed regulations which would place price caps on long-distance prison telephone rates. This would reduce the price gouging that the families of prisoners suffer, while at the same time contribute to the social good by possibly reducing the rate of recidivism.

Thank you very much for your immediate attention to this matter.

Mari E. Mahdi

Mari E. Mahdi
8161 Southwestern. #162
Dallas, TX 75206

Received & Inspected

JAN - 4 2013

FCC Mail Room

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

12/15/2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This letter is to inform you how the cost of prison/jail phone calls have had an impact in my life & the life of my family. On March 13, 2012, for the first time in my life I found myself in a county jail as a federal inmate. As a father of three young children, I would use the phone system to call home. Before I was arrested, I was the "bread winner" & we lived by modest means. Any money that my wife or family members could place on my account came at great sacrifice. The only way to get the most out of these phone calls, was to use the whole fifteen minute time period.

The system being used by the San Bernardino county jail system was provided by Global Tel Link. When placing a local call the first minute would cost \$ 2.93 & then each additional minute would cost \$.17. From doing the math, that would mean a 15 minute call cost my family \$ 5.31. However, it never seemed to be that low. It always would end up costing more than they claimed it would. But going with the number \$ 5.31 for a fifteen minute call, that comes out to \$.46 a minute.

Having phone calls so expensive, meant that I could only call home once or twice a week. One thing I have not mentioned is the fact that in the middle of phone calls (having called a landline) the calls would drop. Already on a tight budget from my family, those drop calls made it so I couldn't speak to my family. In order to seek a refund, you have to fill out paperwork & can often take several weeks before any refund is given.

As an inmate, it felt they could care less for the cost of phone calls, & I hope the FCC will hear our cries so that we can have more contact with our loved ones.

Thanks,

[Signature]

→

As of today, Global Tel Link still has 3600 dollars of my money which they have not refunded to me. Again, not very fair since I'm no longer in the San Bernardino County jail system. We as inmates should have rights- something that Global Tel Link seems to not care about.