

Scott Luce
FH7517
1600 Walters Mill Rd
Somerset PA 15510

Received & Inspected

JAN - 9 2013

FCC Mail Room

January 3, 2013

Chairman Julius Gerachowski
Federal Communications Commission Center
445 12th Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Gerachowski,

It is to my understanding that this office is looking to lower the price of phone calls made by prisoners to their families and I applaud this office for doing so.

I would like to bring to your attention of what Global Tel-link has recently done. This phone company has a contract with the Department of Corrections within Pennsylvania and just recently they have made our families set up an account with them in order for us to call our families. In order for our families to set up this account they have to pay fifteen dollars (\$15.00) a month to get a local phone number around the institution we're in, then they have to pay to put money on this account plus they are charging

Derrick Elliott
#KL-5161,
SCI-Somerset
1600 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, PA. 15510

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January 3, 2013

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I would like to make a few comments on the outrageous phone rates in the Pennsylvania D.O.C. I'm in prison in Somerset County, Pa., but I'm a resident of the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. That is where all of my phone calls are made to. Though Pittsburgh is only about an hour from this prison, to call my family, friends, and/or attorney it's cost me \$5.41 if it's prepaid, and/or \$6.25 if I was able to call collect. The reason I say, "if I was able to call collect", is because this prison system has monopolized the phone situation and made it so that if a prisoners family doesn't sign up with a certain phone company for collect calls, the call can't be made. The service they use is so messed up that calling your lawyers office collect is no longer an option. Which in itself is a hindrance because it denies access to the courts, and the fact that when you call an attorney, he may not be in. His/her secretary will still accept the pre-paid call to tell you the lawyer's not there, and the first minute of the phone call is the most costly (over \$2.00). As soon as the party you're calling presses the required number the \$2 plus dollars are immediately taken from your phone account, whether you talk for one minute, or fifteen seconds.

My primary phone calls are to my family who are unable to afford the high cost of these phone rates. This makes it extremely difficult to speak with them, including my two-year-old daughter. The phone rates are causing a great distance between me and my family, and has already caused me to lose friends due to the fact that I can't afford to call them. Communication is key to any

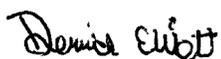
and every relationship, but at the rates that the Pennsylvania DOC are charging it's impossible to maintain them. If their aim is to have it so when I go home I don't have any friends, and have a more severe distance from my family, they're succeeding.

If the rates were more affordable it would help me be in my daughters life as much as I can from here. I would be able to talk to her atleast a few times a week, instead of the monthly phone calls that I make now.

To further speak about he PA. DOC's reasoning for these high phone rates, they get a "44.4% kickback" from every phone call made by a prisoner. They make it seem like they "kickback" some of that money to the prisoners "well-being" and pay for services for the prisoners. That is a complete lie. In PA. state prisons everything you want or need, you have to pay for. I don't know what they are doing with that money, but it's not going to the prisoners. Actually, that's something else that if looked into, would open up a whole can of worms for the administrators of these prisons. Somebody's stealing, or pocketing the money for their own gain.

In advance, I want to thank you for listening to me, and your help in this matter. You are highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrick Elliott".

Derrick Elliott

ROBERT M. BURNS
OCCC-SHU
1 ADMINISTRATION ROAD
BRIDGEWATER, MA 02324

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January 3, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

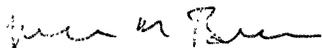
This is a public comment for the Wright Petition
Docket #96-128

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to provide relief to the families of inmates who are burdened by the high cost of telephone calls placed by inmates.

The high cost of phone calls placed to out-of-state phone numbers was a tremendous burden on my family and me, and added to our pain, during the final weeks of my mother's life in 2008. The cost of out-of-state calls from Massachusetts prisons has since come down, but is still high enough to be burdensome to many families. It is well known that an inmate's best opportunity for successful reintegration into the community begins with a solid basis of support arising from strong relationships with family and friends. For many inmates, especially for those who cannot read or write and those whose family and friends live far away, the telephone is literally a life-line to the community of love and support the inmate needs while serving time, and upon which he or she will depend when released. As a society, we should be doing everything we can to support, encourage and enable those relationships. Prohibitively high telephone rates have the opposite effect: they inhibit these crucial relationships.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this petition. We ask for action by the FCC not only for the benefit of inmates and their families, but also for the benefits that accrue to society when inmates are able to forge strong relationships with family and friends.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Burns

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FCC Mail Room

January 3, 2013

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

RE: Public Comments regarding unethical behavior of prison long distance phone carrier

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It is my understanding you are looking into the exorbitant cost of phone calls made from prisoners to their friends and families. I have personal experience in this regard that I wish to share with you. Hopefully this information will be of help in finding an equitable solution to this out of control situation.

I have been incarcerated since 1980. Long distance phone calls used to be charged at the same rate as any collect call from outside of prison would have been. In the early 1990s Washington state began trying to extract money from our friends and families by involving themselves in the phone carrier business. It is my understanding that the initial carrier was in fact at least partly owned by James Hartford and Bob Rhay, both of whom are connected to the corrections system here in Washington. But the history of this problem is not what I want to discuss.

In 2008 my brother, Jeffrey Pauley, set up an account with the phone carrier for Washington Prisons. He put fifty dollars on the account so I would be able to call him at his home in San Jose California when needed. It was mandatory he set up this account as they would not permit me to call him collect even though he has a stellar credit score. I might add that in order to place fifty dollars on this account, it cost considerably more in the form of fees. At the rates being charged, I knew we would only receive two twenty minute phone calls for this fifty dollars.

In late 2008 I made one twenty minute phone call to my brother. That should have left enough funds for one more call. About six months later I attempted to make that other call but it would not go through. Upon investigation I discovered that the phone carrier had closed the account and stolen the money. I filed a grievance at McNeil Island Corrections Center that was investigated by George Gilbert, who was then in charge of the phone system. Mr. Gilbert informed me that since I didn't use the call quickly enough, it was proper for the phone carrier to take this money and the only recourse was to send more money to this unscrupulous carrier or I would not be permitted to call my brother. I pursued this grievance all the way to the top level but the response remained the same. The Washington Department of Corrections had validated these actions by their business partner.

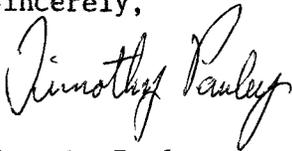
I wrote several letters of complaint but was told that the carrier had been changed, thus negating any claim. Approximately a year later the carrier

changed back, however, and it became apparent there was some kind of collusion taking place between the two companies, U.S. Tel and Global Tel Link. But the bottom line remained the same. They were keeping the money and holding my communications with my brother hostage for more ransom.

I realize my language might sound inflammatory. If I had done this to the Department of Corrections or one of their business partners, they would have prosecuted me to the fullest extent of the law. I would have been convicted. I would have been required to pay them back in addition to whatever punitive penalties they could persuade a judge to levy against me. I am just an ignorant prisoner Chairman Genachowski. I don't have the knowledge to sue them, nor do I have the funds to hire a lawyer. All I can do is accept the loss and suffer the indignity of not being able to talk to my brother.

I hope these comments are of assistance to you. Understanding that I am a convicted felon, I don't expect that anyone particularly cares if I am defrauded. My brother, on the other hand, has never been convicted of anything. He is a good citizen and it was his money that was stolen. As with most people just trying to survive out there, he doesn't have the time to fight a losing battle against institutional corruption. I am hoping you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Pauley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Timothy Pauley
273053 A316
Monroe Correctional Complex - WSRU
P.O. Box 777
Monroe, WA 98272

cc: Prison Legal News

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC20554

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FCC Mail Room

January 1 ,2013

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition(CC Docket 96-128). Unless a person has had a friend or loved one incarcerated, they would never know what it is like to be able to talk to someone on the phone with whom they cannot see or visit on a regular basis. In my case, my son is in another state, and our only means of hearing from each other is by telephone. Rates for the services are much higher than they are for a typical call, which puts a burden on the paying party receiving a call from someone incarcerated. Writing letters to loved ones is available, but there is nothing like hearing the voice of a loved one far away. Prisoners are already being punished by being locked up and removed from society, family, and friends. I ask why they are further punished by paying higher rates for the same services that others not incarcerated are charged.

Please support the efforts of those trying to get fair rates for prisoners who need to stay in touch with their friends and families.

Sincerely,



Janie Lapointe

This is a Public Comment for The Wright Petition
(cc Docket # 96-128)

Soames Keith 191981
Suwannee C I
5964 US Highway 90
Live Oak Fla 32060

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

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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski,

In Personality of the name mentioned above, I, as you can see is currently serving a life sentence in Florida. This letter is to inform you of the impact that the Florida Phone System is having on me and my family.

I used to be housed at South Bay C I in Palm Beach where I used to speak to my mother on a regular bases which contributed heavily to the up liftment of both our morales. However, in 2011, may, due to a trumped up disciplinary report I was shipped to North Florida, at which I ended up at Suwannee C.I. A totally not-inmate friendly facility.

Here I am, housed in North-Florida, my mother lives in Miami, she is 62 years old and upon arriving at Suwannee to find out that I cannot speak to mother because she cannot afford the expensive rates or connection of a major phone company like ATT or Verizon, we are poor and can only afford magic jack, but the institution refuse to put my mother's phone number on my phone list, so as a result, I have yet to speak with my mother since May 2011. all because we cannot afford major phone companies high connections and rates.

My Girl Friend also is experiencing almost \$2.00 per call rates, this is stressful due to the fact that it affects our communication regularities and relation ship. please help in any way you can. Thanks for your time and undivided attention.

yours Truly
Soames

December 30, 2012

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

Received & Inspected
DEC 9 2013
FCC Mail Room

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DEC 9 2013
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

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

As a mother of an incarcerated son, I am hurting for contact with my son. Although he is only an hour and half drive from me, I cannot afford to drive there as much as I like. I am unemployed and cannot afford to buy gas at the price it is and as often as I want. The only other way of connection is with phone calls. These also are at such a high cost; I have to limit them as well.

This is such a travesty that we cannot maintain contact with the ones we love because of the high cost to do it. It seems as though there is no concern by the FCC to regulate the monopoly that exists with the phone companies that are only concerned about their profits and not the families that are being affected.

Isn't there something that can be done?

If anyone can do anything, I think it would be you.

Thank you for whatever you can do.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A Cole

22185 Old Santa Cruz Hwy

Los Gatos, CA 95033

408-316-1115

our families somewhere around ~~($\$5.00$)~~ five dollars to put money on this account but they deduct this five dollar fee from the twenty-five dollars they put on the account leaving us only twenty dollars worth of calls. The phone calls themselves are cheaper but in all reality they are not. If I only make one call a month it is really costing my family ~~40~~ forty dollars for that one call. So what I would like to know is how they are saying the phone calls are cheaper, but more importantly for this office to look into this if they already have.

I would also like to bring to your attention about what we as inmates are being charged per phone call by us buying a phone card from the commissary in which the money is automatically added to our phone account. We as inmates by making calls this way costs us five dollars and fifteen cents ($\$5.15$) per call. By us calling this way should be cheaper but they're not. I would like to see this price go down to a more affordable rate to where when I purchase a $\$10$ card I'll be able to make more than two phone calls. If you

Are unaware, these institutions also charge us
Tax on phone cards. For us to purchase Ten dollars
worth of phone time they charge us sixty cents
for a total price of Ten dollars and ~~sixty~~ sixty cents
(\$10.60)

I do thank you for your attention in and of
this matter and I do hope that this office is
successful in getting the phone call rates to a
lower more normal rate.

I would appreciate it if this office would
please keep me updated in the progress of making
the phone rates a lower rate. I am currently an
inmate house in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

Sincerely,

Scott Luce

Scott Luce

JAN 09 2013

FCC Mail Room

1-3-13

Dear Chairman Genackowski,

Please add this public comment for the Wright Petition (cc Docket #96-128). I served in the USMC for 3 yrs of my life 81-84. I'm now in prison in PA. I'm from Erie, PA. and am housed in Huntingdon state prison. I've been here 9 1/2 yrs. My family can't afford to visit me regularly cause its too far and its expensive also. I call instead both my parents have retired from GE corporation. They worked there a combined 50 plus years and both get social security too. They aren't rich by no means. My family sends me money to help me get commissary, pay for cable, etc. (its not much at all \$25 a month at best). I try to call at least least twice or 3 times a month. I'm 50 yrs old so my parents are senior. I know I committed a crime, and I'm paying for it now. I get \$14.50 from the prison employment here. It cost me \$5.50 to call 15 mins to Erie from the middle of the state. I pray to god I'm

able to call. I would regret
the rest of my life if I
could speak to my parents
at all. I would hate myself
and anyone who stopped me
from speaking to them. I
pray that you see to keep-
-ing the phone rates low.
I'm trying to rebuild my
relationship with my family.
Both my parents have
had heart attacks. And both
have had operations as a
result. My father had triple
bypass my mother had
stitches put in her veins.
I have went with out
if I can call home.
I can at least bring a
smile to their life
when I tell them I love
them. Its a burden on
me and them to pay high
phone bills. All I get
from commissary is hygiene
items. My only thing that
is bought by me is phone
cards just then cable.
One went with out T.V.
when both of them were
in the hospital. Thank you

P.S.
I live on the Duke Street
base min.