

MAR 12 2013

Some thing needs to  
 be done about the terrible  
 cost of families being  
 able to stay in contact  
 with those spending time  
 in prison.

It is a known fact that  
 it makes for far better  
 out come for all involved  
 if they can be in regular  
 contact.

Most simply cannot  
 afford the high price  
 the prisons demand for  
 phone calls

Please fix this.

No. of Copies rec'd  
 List ABCDE

0

Maui Hehala

15128 Everleigh Court

Rosemount, Mn 55068

nonidream@gmail.com

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

Something <sup>FCC Mail Room</sup> needs to be done about the terrible cost of families being able to stay in contact with those spending time in prison.

It is a known fact that it makes for far better outcome for all involved if they can be in regular contact.

Most simply cannot afford the high price the prisons demand for phone calls

Please fix this.

Mani Hakala

15128 E. Verdigrass Ln

Rosemont, Mo. 65068

nonidream@gmail.com

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Please fix this.  
Maui Hobbs  
15128 Everlight Court  
Rosemount, Mn 55068  
nonidream@gmail.com

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Please fix this.  
Maui Hobbs  
15128 E. Verdugo Blvd  
Rossmore, Mo. 65068  
nonidream@gmail.com

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Most simply cannot afford the high price the prisons demand for phone calls

Please fix this  
Mavis Hobbs  
15128 E. Verdugo Loop  
Rossmore, Mo. 65068  
nonidream@gmail.com

DANIEL BLANCO  
F-53560, G3-44-044

March 4, 2013

CSATF/SP  
PO Box 5244  
Corcoran, CA 93212

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

12-375

FCC Mail Room

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) at Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

Only TDD has been provided, and it is unuseable to us for several reasons. There are numerous deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/writing level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with thier video phone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals whose primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

Sincerely,

*Daniel J. Blanco*  
F-53560

G3-44-044

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

*Tyson Hopper*  
T-96471, G3-42-034  
CSATF/SP  
PO Box 5244  
Corcoran, CA 93212

March 4, 2013

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

**12-375**

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Sincerely,

*Tyson Hopper*

T-96471

G3-42-034

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

Juan Rivera  
AD8230/G3-26-014  
CSATF/SP  
PO Box 5244  
Corcoran, CA 93212

March 4, 2013

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

**12-375**

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Sincerely,

*Juan Rivera*  
*Juan Rivera*  
AD 8230

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

Allen Fisher  
K-75306, G13-42-024

March 4, 2013

CSATF/SP  
PO Box 5244  
Corcoran, CA 93212

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

**12-375**

FCC Mail Room

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Sincerely,

Allen Fisher

K-75306

G13-42-024

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
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Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

OZMAR13

DEAR SECRETARY DORTCH

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WC DOCKET #12-375.

THIS IS MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS A PRISONER IN WASHINGTON STATE CONCERNING THE PHONE SERVICES PROVIDED BY V-CONNECT.

MY FIRST ISSUE IS THAT CALLS COST \$3.60 FOR 20 MINUTES. I COME FROM A POOR FAMILY AND IT CREATES A REAL HARDSHIP FOR THEM TO PAY THAT MUCH, EVEN WHEN THEY CAN AFFORD FOR ME TO CALL, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO TALK TO EVERYONE. SOMEONE ALWAYS FEELS LEFT OUT, AND IT CAUSES CONFLICT IN THE FAMILY.

MY SECOND ISSUE IS THAT THERE IS NO WAY FOR INMATES IN WASHINGTON STATE TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN CALLS. OUR PEOPLE ON THE STREETS CAN PUT MONEY ON OUR ACCOUNTS SO WE DON'T HAVE TO CALL COLLECT, BUT AGAIN, AT OVER \$3.00 A CALL, IT IS A HARDSHIP.

I FEEL IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INMATES AND FAMILIES, TO ALLOW US TO REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN OUR TIES TO OUR COMMUNITIES. THE UNREASONABLY HIGH COST OF INMATE PHONE CALLS ONLY SERVES AS A BARRIER TO THIS PROCESS.

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

SINCERELY,

Michael Olson

WA DOC # 773227

Clallam Bay Correction Center  
1830 eagle crest way  
Clallam bay WA 98326

RE: Docket # 12-375  
Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th St.S.W.  
Rm. TW-B204  
Washington DC,  
20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Date: 3.5.2013

175 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg PA.  
15370

Dear Marlene Dortch :

I am writing to you about the high cost of phone calls made by inmates in the PA. prison system. The PA. prison system uses Global Tel-Link to provide phone service to inmates in the prison system. Global Tel-Link is charging excessive prices to inmates for use of the phone service. To make a call to Pgh. PA. which is only sixty miles away they charge \$3.35 for a fifteen minute phone call. To call CA. it cost nearly a dollar a minute. Then for myself to call NJ. one state away it cost almost ten dollars for a fifteen minute call. Global Tel - Link will not let calls go through unless the calls are prepaid by inmates or their families. When inmates are making calls the phone call is interrupted several times saying this call is being made by a inmate from the prison system. Inmates and their families know this when the call is being made. When a call is being made it may be cut off in the middle of the call if anyone picks up another phone in the house being called. Other prison systems have phone service that only charges \$1.89 for a fifteen minute call anyplace in the US. The high cost of the phone service in PA. is causing inmates to loose contact with loved ones. The prison system says they do not want inmates to loose contact with family and loved ones. If this is true why do they charge so much for inmates to talk to loved ones. Something needs to be done to stop the excessive cost of phone calls made by inmates to their families. I hope that you can have something done to lower the cost of phone calls made by inmates. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Respectfully

*Lawrence Smith* \*EX-727

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

RE: Docket # 12-375  
Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th St.S.W.  
Rm.TW-B204  
Washington DC,  
20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Date 3/6/2013

Jonathan Moore #K61315  
175 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg PA.  
15370

Dear Marlene Dortch :

I am writing to you about the high cost of phone calls made by inmates in the PA. prison system. The PA. prison system uses Global Tel-Link to provide phone service to inmates in the prison system. Global Tel-Link is charging excessive prices to inmates for use of the phone service. To make a call to Pgh. PA. which is only sixty miles away they charge \$3.35 for a fifteen minute phone call. To call CA. it cost nearly a dollar a minute. Then for myself to call NJ. one state away it cost almost ten dollars for a fifteen minute call. Global Tel - Link will not let calls go through unless the calls are prepaid by inmates or their families. When inmates are making calls the phone call is interrupted several times saying this call is being made by a inmate from the prison system. Inmates and their families know this when the call is being made. When a call is being made it may be cut off in the middle of the call if anyone picks up another phone in the house being called. Other prison systems have phone service that only charges \$1.89 for a fifteen minute call anyplace in the US. The high cost of the phone service in PA. is causing inmates to loose contact with loved ones. The prison system says they do not want inmates to loose contact with family and loved ones. If this is true why do they charge so much for inmates to talk to loved ones. Something needs to be done to stop the excessive cost of phone calls made by inmates to their families. I hope that you can have something done to lower the cost of phone calls made by inmates. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Respectfully

*Jonathan Moore*

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
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Dear Secretary Dortch

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375

1. Cost + Experience: My family has collect but the phone company that SCI-Huntingdon have won't allow me to connect with my family. There for we (my family) has to buy pre-paid minutes.
2. Call Charges: I think it should be one flat rate according the location your calling to.
3. Dropped Calls: Calls drop on a regular basis and I don't think we should have to pay a second connection fee if you are gonna call right back.
4. Free Calls: One free call a month will impact me my family and children because it will help me and other prisoners connect more with their family and children without leaving them a burden of another bill to pay.

Sincerely  
Anthony Johnson

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Secretary Dortch,

"This is a Public Comment for WC-Docket number 12-375." the following is a list of 5 things to help inmates keep in contact with their families. We are requesting:

- 1) Cheaper phone rates
- 2) A 10 minute free call for all Inmates Daily
- 3) No Connection fees
- 4) No Commissions
- 5) At&t has a 15 minute phone call for \$1.<sup>00</sup>

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

We would greatly appreciate it if you can make these changes for us, so we can have better communication with our children and family members. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

 MAAmm DOC# JW-6685

1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon, Pa 16654

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

February 24th, 2013

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street  
Sw; Room Tw-B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Re: Public Commentary(Docket No. 12-375)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This correspondence is in response to the recent complaints regarding inmate telephone rates in various states. I am currently incarcerated within the state of Pennsylvania at S.C.I. Huntingdon, in Huntingdon Pennsylvania whereupon Global \* Link is the sole provider of telephone service for the prison. I would like to formally make a public comment in regards to Docket No. 12-375, and I would like to make suggestions which would create a fair and impartial service to inmates in Pennsylvania as well as inmates in other states.

Over the years there have been many attempts to make complaints against the various telephone providers. Whether it be service, or rate structures, the fact is that the telephone providers contracted are merely exploiting inmates and their families because they are allowed complete autonomy over telephone calls made by inmates across the various states. Corporations such as Global Tel\*Link bid state contracts promising states a "Kick-Back", and once they become the sole provider of service they refuse to cooperate with other service providers within the state. Therefore, a call made from Central Pennsylvania is bounced across the country and ultimately connected in the Eastern region of the state for a ridiculous sur-charge and other connection fees. Inmates and their families are taxed on various levels. State, local, and Federal taxes add up along with other connection fees making calls here in Pennsylvania well over \$5.00 for fifteen(15) minutes.

I am happy to read that this Honorable Commission is finally addressing this issue which has plagued inmates for years as well as their families and friends.

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These forced monopolized purchases can no longer take place, and I believe that this commission has the authority to stop or regulate such contracts in order to create a fair trade practice between the states and these private contractors.

It seems that the prominent complaint being asserted is the simple fact that rates are entirely too high. I would like to make a few suggestions in regards to phone rates and some programs which can be implemented in order to balance out the complaints and come to an accord between consumer and provider.

One example can be set by the Philadelphia County Prison System. Every inmate receives one(1) ten(10) minute FREE call on a daily basis. Other incentives include that there are no connection fees. The state of Michigan offers a flat rate of \$1.80 per call no matter where you call in the U.S.. Providers such as ATT offer a plan which allows a fifteen(15) minute call for only a \$1.00 per call.

Incentives such as the Free ten(10) minute call can be off-set by the Inmate General Welfare Fund(I.G.W.F.), which in Pennsylvania is a fund set up for incarcerated individuals to purchase necessities for inmates. Money is deducted from inmate purchases in order to contribute to this fund. This is a great service that can be offered without putting a burden on either party. Other states have similar funds which they can utilize for this purpose as well.

Inmates and their families should have a choice to choose their service providers instead of being forced to pay such absurd prices or fees from these forced monopolized purchases. Options made by providers such as ATT should be made readily available to inmates and their families.

The states refuse to address such contracts concerning rate structures citing that they have no power to regulate such contracts. Although their public utility commissions do have the authority to do so; if they refuse to regulate these nefarious trade practices, then I believe that it is the responsibility of the Federal Communications Commission to intervene protect the interest of consumer. Either by mandating the state agencies in question to address and resolve the matter regarding rate disputes, or this Honorable Commission taking control of this

situation and regulating such contract agreements themselves.

In closing, I hope that my commentary can somehow assist in your task of righteously resolving this matter. I would like to personally thank you for your time and consideration of this matter which affects not only inmates, but our families who are tax paying citizens. We only seek fairness and comity regarding this matter sub judice and I believe that your agency can offer that result which will protect everyone as a collective...

Sincerely Yours,

Somtraga Conea

Marlene H. Dortch, Sect.

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Rm TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Mark Fowler - J29297

1100 Pike Street

Huntingdon, Pa 16654-1112

Dear Sect, Dortch,

I am writing this letter with regards to the current phone situation within the Pennsylvania prison system. I have been upstate for the past three years and I cannot contact my family due to the current economy, and the expensive phone rates. My family members are mostly seniors and are on fixed incomes and can not afford my phone calls. I have been upstate since September 2009, and have <sup>had</sup> no contact with my family via phone because of the rates. I am earnestly asking if there is anything at all that could be done with regards to this issue, your consideration in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Respectfully,  
Mark Fowler

February 24th, 2013

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street  
Sw; Room Tw-B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Valcourt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Jonathan Valcourt".

February 24th, 2013

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street  
Sw; Room Tw-B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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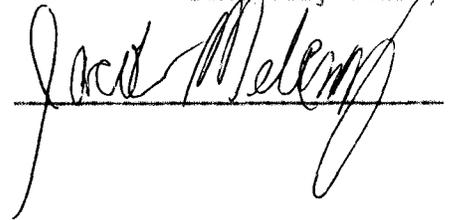
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Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Melendez", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

To: Ms Marlene H. Dertch

Secretary of the  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
SW, Room TW-B 204  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

From: Mr. Lament Campfield DE 7873  
SEI-Huntingdon  
1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon Pa. 16654-1112

Dear Ms Marlene;

Please allow me to thank you and the family of started the push concerning the high price phone rate that's been troubling the incarcerated men and women from state to state. And I appreciate your representation...

Since we've become a "Hot Commodity" for the Commonwealth. It's now much easier for people to do as they please when it comes to making money off those of whom are now housed in the Commonwealth's "New Farming System". This high rate phone system is not only outrageous, and have been for actually more than a decade for the incarcerated individuals, No! No! No!... It has taken a toll, a hard and continuous work of exhausting labor upon our beloved families, friends, wives, husbands, children etc...

So with this information, concerning this wrongfully placed high rate phone system within these prisons. Now that you have more than just a foot in the door... take this opportunity to make a change. Move with the beat of the statistics of many other low rate phone systems within today society...

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These are some of the issues of our concern, my family, loved ones, friends, children etc. That we pray to actually take place...

(1). No connection fee at all.

(2). Call forwarding, because families work be on the road, they travel and if its added in the phone package deal, we should be allowed to have that connection.

(3). Give the indigent @ four free (15) fifteen minute calls a month...

(4). Allow all calls to be 10¢ a minute or less...

(5) Allow families to put money on our phone account

We here at S.C.I.-Huntingdon appreciate the very exhausting work you're put in for the incarcerated Men and Women, your labor will not be invalid...

Respectfully  
William Simpson

Thank You

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WC. Docket Number 12-375  
FCC Mail Room

Mark William Miller x  
HM4672  
1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon PA 16654-1112

TO MARLENE H. Dortch Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 2nd Street SW Room TW 8204  
Washington DC 20554

Our Phone Rate is way to High my Family and i  
do not Talk very much over The Phone, My Parent's  
are on a Fix income and i only make meger wages  
in Jail i only call when i can or on a Holiday's  
We pay a "4" Four dollar connection Fee and  
50¢ per minut This make it Hard to call Home and to  
my Brother and Family

i know Their will Be Problims with Phone's in The Jail  
But High Prices? NO, it should not Be, The Phone  
Compines are stealing And when you steal From  
people you should Be in Jail

Now we must even Pre pay for Phone calls  
If i or they are else haden emergency, i would  
not Be able to call home or contact eney family  
member's Any call's or lower Price or Free calls  
would be a must To The Prison system A Lower Price  
To Talk To my MA & Pappi That can not Travel From Floride  
To PA. Thank you For Time To speak UP.

Mark William Miller x  
HM4672

*[Signature]*  
HM4672

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1

CODE

Dear Secretary Dortch,

"This is a Public Comment for WC-Docket number 12-375." the following is a list of 5 things to help inmates keep in contact with their families. We are requesting:

- 1) Cheaper phone rates
- 2) A 10 minute free call for all Inmates Daily
- 3) No Connection fees
- 4) No Commissions
- 5) At&t has a 15 minute phone call for \$1.<sup>00</sup>

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MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

We would greatly appreciate it if you can make these changes for us, so we can have better communication with our children and family members. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert Hawkins DOC# GU-9603

1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon, Pa 16654

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, THE CURRENT RATE OF A PHONE CALL TO PITTSBURGH IS OUTRAGIOUS. MY PARENTS ARE ELDERLY ON A FIXED INCOME ITS NOT FEAR FOR OUR FAMILY'S TO BE PAYING THESE OUTRAGIOUS RATES, I WOULD APPRECIATE A CHANGE IN THE CURRENT RATE THAT WOULD HELP EVERYONES FAMILY WITH THE SAME PROBLEM.

Thank you  
Robert Hawkins

Doc GU-9603

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List ABOVE

Dear Secretary Dortch,

"This is a Public Comment for WC-Docket number 12-375." the following is a list of 5 things to help inmates keep in contact with their families. We are requesting:

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MAR 12 2013

- 1) Cheaper phone rates
- 2) A 10 minute free call for all Inmates Daily
- 3) No Connection fees
- 4) No Commissions
- 5) At&t has a 15 minute phone call for \$1.<sup>00</sup>

FCC Mail Room

We would greatly appreciate it if you can make these changes for us, so we can have better communication with our children and family members. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Samuel Colon DOC# CZ-5507

1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon, Pa 16654

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List ABCDE

TYLORNE MARTIAL #100-5108

175 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

=====

Date: 3 / 6 / 2013

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MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

TO: Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION  
COMMISSION:  
445 12th Street, SW.  
Rm. TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Making Phone Rates Just & Reasonable.

Greetings:

I'm an inmate incarcerated at S.C.I. GREENE as addressed above, and I've read an article pertaining to your endeavors to make State Prison Telephone service rates Just and reasonable. Ma'am, immediately, I commend you for such altruistic egalitarian efforts, which my family and I are emphatically grateful for such actions and for people--alike yourself--for having such a commendable disposition towards others; especially, those whom are less fortunate and barely surviving the economic strife of current times.

Therefore, Ma'am, as an incarcerated citizen of America whose family and peers are being victimized by the absurd extortionate expense rates for basic telephone services; that which most American families are not subjected to solely because they're fortunate enough not to have incarcerated loved ones. I forward this letter and the ensuing facts in advocacy and hope of effectuating the much needed amenable and affabled

"family friendly" phone service rates that's reasonable and practical for the multitude of hard working families that wish to hear their incarcerated family members voice--via--utilizing the convenient means of communication provided by phone services systems, but can't because of the nefariously unscrupulous special interest and ulterior motives of the State D.O.C.'s and the mutual business incentives between the D.O.C.'s and Specifically selected telephone companies--under the guise of public welfare interests, and penalogical security and rehabilitative interests, which lacks any logical premise in actual practice.

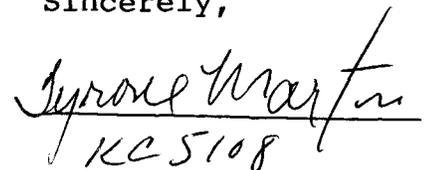
For instance:

- 1). While I were incarcerated within a Federal Prison in Florida State [U.S.P. COLEMAN] it cost only \$1.50 to talk for Three minutes, which that prison had an "I.T.T.S." system.
- 2). As well, while I were incarcerated in California's Federal Prison [U.S.P. ATWATER] it only cost \$1.50 to talk for Three minutes.
- 3). Likewise, this is the case even in the Federal Prisons here in Pennsylvania.

Ma'am how is it cheaper for me to call from those other States--to call my family here in Pennsylvania--although, it cost about double that aforementioned amount to call from Pennsylvania's "State Prisons" to my loved ones in those other States? That's truly an egregious disparity in price--supposedly for the same security services both State and Federal prison system mandates in proclamation is prerequisite for the publics' welfare. The other absurd fact here in Pennsylvania is that--despite there being numerous other telephone companies closer to Pennsylvania or here in Pennsylvania that can provide cheaper services and prerequisite security services--the D.O.C. has chosen to procure the services of a TEXAS STATE telephone company's services. Now, tell me that's not questionable, especially, in light of ex-Governor Tom Ridge & George Bush, Jr. political relations?

Ma'am, in conclusion, on behalf of my own family, peers, and for the sake justice and gratitude. I, again, thank you for your time and attentive efforts in this regard. If you have any questions or require more active support. Please, contact me and I'll promptly reply.

Sincerely,

  
KC 5108

Mr. Tim Williams  
EB-6773  
1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon, Pa 16654-1112

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MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Merlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW; Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

"This is a public comment for the WC-Docket Number 12-375"

Dera Secretary Dortch,

I am writing to you concerning the Pennsylvania D.O.C. prisoner phone system. I feel that the phone rates are unfair and unjust to prisoner and their families. Especially in a time when everyone is struggling from the bad economy. Its a shame that people would take advantage of another's situation to make a profit, with inflated prices. Prisoners on average make \$ 20.00 a month, after deductions for fines and Court costs. The phone call costs over \$ 5.00 which makes it hard to stay in contact with family and loved ones on a weekly basis using a pre-paid calling card, with the cost of living also considered families are forced to pay these inflated prices in a financially strapped economy, just to have contact with loved one. I believe that this is unfair and unjust act to be forced to pay these inflated prices to have contact with family and loved ones.

If possible my family and myself would like to see happen is:

- (1) Cheaper phone rates.
- (2) No inflated connection fees
- (3) No Commissions
- (4) A free call for inmates at least once a week or monthly.

Enclosing, I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Tim Williams

Date 3/ 6 /13

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List ABCDE

Feb. 21, 2013

"This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375"

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Secretary Dortch,

|  |
|--|
| <b>Legal Mail</b><br>Provided to<br>Blackwater River Correctional Facility<br>on <b>MAR 06 2013</b> for mailing<br>Initial <i>dm</i> |
|--|

As a wrongly convicted inmate who is struggling through years of unjust incarceration, I implore you to take whatever steps possible to alleviate the ~~inmate~~ exorbitant and unfair charges and practices that my family and friends have suffered along with myself, in trying to stay in contact via telephone.

I am housed over 900 miles from my wife and 89 year old mother, and telephone calls have been my only means of family contact for nearly 5 years. Because of my inability to earn money, and my mother and wife's extremely limited budget, our communication is severely limited. In spite of this, our phone bills represent a significant portion of our available funds. Although she wouldn't likely admit it to me, I know she does without essentials, including food items to be able to speak with me, especially about important legal and personal issues.

Every time funds are deposited on my prepaid phone account, a large percentage is charged as a service fee. For years we used her normal phone carrier bill, now we have been told we must pre-pay or lose phone privileges. Frequently calls are dropped, and we are billed the full amount, even if only a few minutes, or even one minute has passed.

Our phone bills frequently surpass \$40.00 per month for less than a handful of calls weekly.

Free calls or significantly reduced rates would allow my loved ones more time to keep our family together and my friends to keep me involved in their lives. This is literally life changing legislative changes that protect the human rights and dignity of inmates and their families.

Stop allowing the economic abuse of prisoners and their families. Stop these overcharges which serve only to alienate and separate inmates from their loved ones and hinder re-integration back into society as productive members.

Gratefully yours,  
Franz Rigg

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MAR 12 2013

To Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the ~~Wright~~ <sup>FCC Mail Room</sup> Petition, Docket # 96-128.

20% of money I receive from my family gets deducted for court fines and cost. I only receive about \$40.00 a month. After paying for expensive cosmetics (soap, deodorant etc) I don't have enough money to buy a phone card. Global Tel Link, the phone company here, now forces your loved ones to go through them if they want collect services. I haven't used the phone in over a year, because of these high cost. It has fractured most of my relationships back home. A lot of people, I'm not in touch with, it's 2013. People not writing letters. It's also affecting my court situation, because my court-appointed attorney won't set up no phone conference with me, won't accept no collect calls. I have mostly no communication with him, only through 2 sentence letters he writes, and I can't adequately explain to him my issues. I've been in the state system over 41 months. I have used the phone maybe 6 times in those 41 ~~the~~ months. No more than 10. A free phone call a month would go a long way in rebuilding relationships, and be able to talk to my attorney for my appeal.

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RCDE \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Todd Allen, J65262  
S.F. Green

Date: March 9, 2013

175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, Pa 1530

MARK ARRINGTON  
HO5726, CIM, D3, EHD, 245-L  
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR MEN  
POST OFFICE BOX-600  
CHINO, CALIFORNIA. 91708-0600

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MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
445 12th STREET, SW RM. TW-B204  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Attn: Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary.

Ms. Dortch:

I am an Inmate confined within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations, and I am legally deaf.

The letter is being submitted requesting information on and about the possibility of replacement of the old TTY communication system and have with the video phones.

The FCC request institutions to lower rates and provide videophone to Prisoners with hearing disabilities. Keeping in contact with my family helps me to cope with my incarceration and improves my ability to program, prospects of successfully reenter society with a positive attitude.

A videophone is necessary to facilitate this contact, as I struggle with written English, because my primary means of communications is with the American sign language. Sometimes it's hard to understand the meaning of words that are transmitted over the TTY system, and this makes it very difficult for me to communicate properly with my family members, which creates a breakdown in relaying messages that are important to me, as I am worried about their general welfare and they mine. The videophone will makes it so much easier because there will be no gobetween translator and it would also give me more time to talk and to ensure adequate and equal access in contacting my family. It takes to long to complete a TTY

call, the rates charged for videophon system and the TTY call system should be reduced to at least one half or one quarter, respectively, of the charges for Voice calls.

Any and all assistance in written information and any other need to know information, will be greatly appreciated. I humbly await your reply.

Respectfully Submitted:

MARK ARRINGTON  
PRINT NAME DO NOT WRITE

Mark Arrington  
SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR  
MARK ARRINGTON

DATED: 3-5-13

Fred D. Douty # 43219

MOCC

One Mountainside Way

Mt. Olive, WV 25185

March 3, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW; Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Secretary Dortch,

This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375. Due to the high cost of an average phone call to my family \$ 4.50, with a kickback of 46 percent. I'm only able too make one or two calls to my family a month. The worst part is my mother is unable to afford the phone calls. This has left me not able to talk to my two kids over the phone in 7 years. If the price of phone calls was to come down, I feel I would finally be able to hear my children's voice. And a mandated certain amount of "free calling" time per prisoner each month. would mean so much to the rehabilitation of me, but I may have the contact to be a parent to my children. Please, make changes to the cost of prison phone calls so we may stay in contact with are family in these time of need.

Respectfully submitted

Fred D. Douty # 43219

Fred D. Douty # 43219

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MAR 12 2013

FCC Mail Room

03/05/2013

Dear marlene,

Thank you for your concerns about the plight of inmates all over the country in regards to telephone calls.

Telephone companies do take advantage of the fact that inmates will do what it takes to stay in touch with their families and loved ones. By that fact, they charge inmates and their families alot of money whenever they make calls.

Here at Clallam bay in Washington state, calls in and around the state costs \$ 3.60 for 20 (twenty) minutes. When you call out of state, they charge a connection fee depending on what state you are calling, and then a certain amount of charge per minute for the first minute and then a flat rate for every minute after that which ends up costing between 10 (Ten) Dollars and 20 (twenty) Dollars when your 20 (twenty) minutes are over.

It even becomes more difficult and stressful if you are a foreigner and most of your loved ones are overseas, like myself.

This has made it nearly impossible to call my folks abroad since I came here in 2009. I have not been able to talk to my mom or my siblings since I was admitted into the Department of Corrections facilities on September of 2009.

I have been blessed to have a job since I got to this facility, but due to the meager gratuity that we receive for our hard work, it is not possible for me to afford my hygiene and have enough money to afford calling abroad.

I believe that if they made provisions to offer inmates one free long distance or even overseas calls a year, this would be a wonderful <sup>thing</sup> and a godsent blessing.

Another suggestion is to do what Vonage telephone provider does. For a set amount, one can make calls here in the U.S., and abroad without extra charges. I hope an

believe that you and your office have the power to be able to pass laws and ~~policy~~ policies that can facilitate those kinds of suggestions that I mentioned above, and of other inmates all over the country.

Again, thank you very much for all that you are doing and continue to do for those of us who are being exploited by these telephone service providers and have no avenue to fight for ourselves.

I look forward to hearing great news about new changes and opportunities with our telephone calls.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours  
~~Joseph~~

Thurva, Joseph.

Received & Inspected

SECRETARY DORTCH

MAR 12 2013

3/5/13

F.C.C.

FCC Mail Room

RE: THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WC DOCKET NUMBER 12-375.

DEAR SECRETARY DORTCH,

MY NAME IS JAMES BIELA, I AM AN INMATE IN THE STATE OF NEVADA. I WILL BE BRIEF BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE PHONE SYSTEM THAT I MUST USE, IN THE HOPES THAT SOMEONE CAN CHANGE IT FOR THE BETTER.

THE RATE AT WHICH WE CAN BE CHARGED PER CALL IS LUDICROUS. IT'S JUST UNDER \$18 FOR A 15 MINUTE CALL TO ANOTHER STATE, AND AROUND \$3 FOR A "LOCAL" CALL. I AM INCARCERATED AT ELY STATE PRISON IN ELY, NEVADA. IF YOU DON'T KNOW, ELY IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NEVADA DESERT.

THERE REALLY ARE NO "LOCAL" CALLS BECAUSE NOTHING IS OUT HERE! ALL OF MY FAMILY LIVE OUT-OF-STATE ANYWAYS. I HARDLY GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH THEM. IF AND WHEN I DO CALL, THE SERVICE IS INADEQUATE. EITHER WE CAN NOT HEAR EACH OTHER OR THE CALL WILL DROP, PRESUMABLY SO THAT WE HAVE TO PAY ANOTHER OUTRAGEOUS FEE JUST TO "CONNECT."

THEY ARE RIPPING US OFF SIMPLY BECAUSE I AM INCARCERATED. PLUS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE FOR PROVIDERS NOR DO WE REALLY HAVE ANY RECOURSE TO HALT THE PHONE COMPANIES ACTIONS. THIS SORT OF SERVICE WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE PUBLIC. IT SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED JUST BECAUSE WE ARE IMPRISONED OR THE FAMILIES/FRIENDS OF THOSE INCARCERATED.

IF THE PHONE RATES WERE REASONABLE I WOULD ACTUALLY USE THE PHONE MORE. I KNOW ALOT OF INMATES WONT USE IT AT ALL JUST DUE TO THE EXPENSE AND RISK OF BEING DROPPED. AS IT IS, IT'S ESSENTIALLY A WASTE OF MY FAMILIES MONEY SINCE WE CAN'T REALLY HEAR EACH OTHER.

FORM 300 3 80

I WILL END THIS LETTER NOW. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I HOPE  
THAT YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO RESOLVE [OUR] MY ISSUES REGARDING PRISON/JAIL  
SERVICE.

SINCERELY,

JAMES BIEZA

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

S. I HOPE THIS LETTER WILL SUFFICE. IF YOU NEED OR WOULD LIKE MORE  
INFORMATION REGARDING MY EXPERIENCES YOU CAN CONTACT ME FURTHER AT:

JAMES BIEZA #1055801  
ELY STATE PRISON  
P.O. BOX 1989  
ELY, NV. 89301