

This is a Public Comment for the Wright Petition **WC Docket No. 12-375**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC  
Office of the Secretary  
Room TW-B204  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 13 2013

FCC Mail Room

February 12, 2013

**Re: High Cost of Prison Phone Calls – WC Docket No. 12-375**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

My mother is eighty-seven years old. She fell a few months ago and broke her hip. A few weeks after her fall she went back to the hospital for a lung infection. Upon her release she had to move in with my brother as she was too weak to live alone. My sister-in-law said they could not afford the high cost of my phone calls because my brother is retired and on a fixed income. It was like a dagger to my heart. My mother is old and I don't know how much longer she will live. This time is precious.

In the past I only called my mom once a week because I realized that paying \$4.50 for each call, when she only lives 20 miles away, is robbery. Why should they bear the burden of my incarceration?

Both my mom and brother's house are only twenty minutes away, but because they live on the other side of the James River it is considered long-distance. While GTL has provided the use of "prepay accounts", we do not receive cheaper rates for utilizing those accounts.

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This problem does not only affect contact with my mother, it also affects my contact with my son. He wants me to call him, but the same issues exist with using GTL services. GTL tried to convince my ex-wife to switch phone carriers or pay fees to open a prepay account. Her husband did not want those added expenses and having to give personal information to yet another phone company.

Global Tel-Link acts like a "bully" because they are the only phone service provider to Virginia prisons. My family and I are powerless to make any changes. Even the State Corporation Commission no longer has jurisdiction in Virginia to address these issues because the General Assembly repealed that authority. You hold the power to affect favorable changes to the current issues with prison phone services, I ask you to please exercise that power and create reform for all who suffer under the monopoly of Global Tel-Link.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Livesay Ph.D.", with a stylized flourish.

John Livesay, Ph.D., #1108120  
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