

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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December 30, 2013

14-21  
**ACCEPTED/FILED**

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

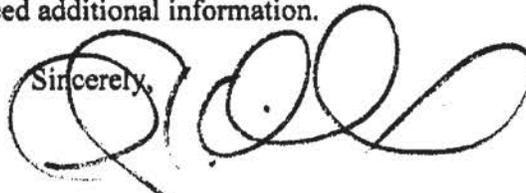
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write on behalf of Sheriff John Buncich, a resident of Indiana's First Congressional District.

Sheriff Buncich has contacted me to express his concerns regarding a proposed rule that would reduce the rate that can be charged for interstate inmate calling services. Specifically, Sheriff Buncich is concerned that the prices established by the Federal Communications Commission would fail to take into account the costs incurred by jails in providing inmate calling services. Enclosed, please find a copy of the correspondence I have received from Sheriff Buncich. I would appreciate your addressing his concerns and making his correspondence part of the official comments you receive for this proposed rule.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:jb  
Enclosure



**JOHN BUNCICH**  
**LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF**  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

December 9, 2013

**The Hon. Congressman Peter Visclosky**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**2256 Rayburn Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

**Dear Congressman Visclosky:**

I am writing to inform you about an *Order* issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that will adversely impact my Office and the performance of my duties as Sheriff of Lake County, and to seek your help in correcting this situation. Specifically, in the FCC's *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services (ICS)* (WC Docket No. 12-375), issued on September 26, 2013, the FCC has reduced the rate that can be charged for interstate inmate calling services in both prisons and jails by establishing arbitrary rules that fail to take into account the unique challenges inherent in providing telephone privileges to inmates.

The FCC *Order* establishes interstate inmate calling services (ICS) rate caps that fail to take into account the costs incurred by jails in providing inmate calling services. Inmate telephone systems are built to reflect the unique needs of each correctional facility and provide a variety of important security components. These security components come at a cost to the facility. Moreover, the small size of most jails, coupled with high turnover rates, means that jails must charge more per minute than larger facilities in order to recover the costs of providing ICS. The *Order* disregards these realities! It imposes unrealistically low rate caps that limit the ability of ICS providers to recover costs of administering services in smaller, higher cost facilities. As a result of the FCC's "one-size-fits-all" approach to ICS, many jails may be forced to severely limit or altogether eliminate inmate telephone privileges.

The National Sheriff's Association will soon be submitting a filing at the FCC to try to protect the ability of Sheriffs to continue to provide inmate calling services and to recover the costs of doing so. I will be contacting you again soon to get your support for this effort.

Sincerely,

Sheriff John Buncich  
Lake County Sheriff

JB/nn