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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

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December 5, 2013

ACCEPTED/FILED

MAY 29 2014

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 12-375 (Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services)

Dear Ms. Dortch

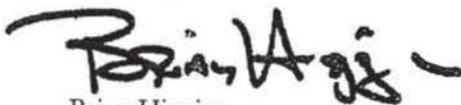
I have been contacted by James R. Voutour, the Sheriff of Niagara County, NY, regarding the agency's new proposed rule capping the per-minute charge for Interstate Inmate Calling Services (ICS). The concerns expressed by Sheriff Voutour echo those expressed by the National Sheriffs' Association, the American Correctional Association and the Major County Sheriffs' Association in their letter to you of October 30th of this year.

As those national associations noted in their letter of October 30th, it is entirely reasonable and appropriate for the FCC to regulate the rates which may be charged for ICS. I do not write to object to such regulation. Like the national associations, I am concerned, however, that the "one-size-fits-all" nature of the rule fails to take into account the fact that the provision of ICS is a more expensive proposition in the context of county jails because such facilities are relatively small and because of the transient nature of their populations.

I ask that the FCC craft a final rule which appropriately addresses these concerns so that smaller facilities are not compelled to cut back on the provision of ICS.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress