

I am a volunteer working with 106 men at BCCF, an Alabama Med. Security prison. We are helping them prepare for release back to society. Their ability to communicate with family, halfway houses and potential employers is severely hampered with the exorbitant phone charges they are required to pay. I support the recommendation to reduce charges prisoners pay to use the telephone. Using prisoners, who are generally impoverished to generate funds for the general fund seems an inappropriate and foolish policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Secretary Dortch:

I implore you to consider upholding the Wright Petition for all of the reasons stated therein. As the mother of an incarcerated son, I have seen the effects on those inmates whose family cannot afford the phone calls. At one point, I was paying \$17 for a 15 minute phone call on my cell phone which had free long distance rates. This greatly limited the number of times I could afford to speak with my son. It also put pressure on him as calling me caused him to feel guilty about the amount of money I had to pay. Our whole family suffered as a result. We write letters weekly as well; however, I live with the anxiety that something may happen to him and it will take several days for the letter to arrive before I know of his situation.

Our prison system recently changed companies. The process of registering to be able to receive a call was done on computer. I have a Master's Degree and had so much trouble with this process, it took me hours to complete it.

I question how many families just gave up in dispare. The prices continue to go up. This is an outrageous abuse of power.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Tracy

Bruce Rishton  
SCCC #157803  
P.O. Box 279  
Clifton, TN. 38425

Received & Inspected

SEP 28 2012

FCC Mail Room

Sept. 14, 2012

[This is a public comment  
to the Wright Petition,  
CC Docket #96-128]

Chairman Genachowski  
FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Wash. DC 20554

Re: The ultra high cost of prison telephone communications

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am respectfully forwarding this letter to your office to sound off my concerns about the exceedingly inflated rates being charged to prisoners to use the prison telephone system to keep in contact with their friends and loved ones.

Here in Tennessee prisons we are connected to the outside world through "Global Tel-link". I personally have been confined to calling my parents (who are 75 (mother) and 86 (father) years old, in failing health, and living on a fixed income) no more than once a week, and then only for 5 minutes at a time. This, even though they only live 3 1/2 hrs. away in the same state, because a 5-minute call costs around 4.00! The same call on the outside would cost, at the most, .50! This is because prison telephone contractors are operating with absolutely no competition, among other things. The fact is, Sir, that my own personal experience is nothing compared to some other inmates, for whom a personal call to the ones they love costs them or their family upwards of 25.00 for a 30-minute phone call, depending on where they live!

It is my personal opinion that in this day and age, with the explosion of inexpensive technical advancement, that such an injustice can be openly practiced on some of our most disenfranchised citizens. It is my hope that your heart is not calloused to the plight of these sons, daughters, mothers and fathers, who, in addition to being locked away from the ones they love

and who love them, are loaded down with this additional unnecessary burden, and that you will take seriously any legislation that passes your desk that promises to relieve some of this burden.

May God bless you in your efforts and may your conscience be your guide in your sacrifice of public service.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Ruskton

OCT - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

Page 1 Dear, Mr. Genachowski Oct, 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2012

I hope this letter finds you in good Spirits. My name is Michael Yeatts, and I am an inmate at the Lawrenceville Correctional Center in Lawrenceville Va. I don't know that my letter is going to change anything, but I am writing you to speak out about how it cost almost \$8.00 dollars a call for me to call home to my family and children. The VA D.O.C only offers 2 payment options when calling home, that's collect and debit. Collect calls are between 6 to 8.00 dollars a call, and debit calls are about 5.00 for 20 minutes. Neither of these payment options can be used to call cell phones. My mother called the prison phone company "Global tel link" and tried to set her phone up so that I could call home and they gave her a hassle telling her that... She needed to fax them a copy of her cell phone bill and her

helping get something changed in regards to the high cost of phone calls, please dont hesitate to contact me. I have 6 years left and I cant even communicate with my family or kids by telephone because of the high rates that it cost.

Its no secret that the warden allows the officers to bring cell phones in to sell to the inmates, but then soon as the cell phones are caught in an inmates possession; he gives the inmate a street charge and ships that person to a higher security prison.

Well, I myself am trying to get home to my family, so Im not going to buy a cell phone from an officer, only to get more time in prison when I end up getting caught with it.

However it would be really nice to see some changes made in the VA DOC on the high cost of phone calls being so high. And I will fight tooth and nail until I see some changes.

Recently this year there was a young man who was stabbed to death here, because the gang members went into his cell to rob him, but as he went to fight back, he and his cell partner was stabbed but his partner survived. When the news paper came out, the warden had the nerve to

Say the young man who lost his life died of natural causes. So if the administration will tell a lie like that to cover themselves you can imagine they don't care about making any changes to the high cost of phone calls so people can talk to their families.

I hope you will get this letter and spread my concern out to the public and hopefully together I can help make some changes.

I look forward to your response as soon as possible sir. Thank you ~~and~~ and god bless you.

Sincerely,  
Michael Yeatts

Page 2

light bill in order to set up an account so that I could call her. Global tel link has been known for excepting money for payment plans and then never unblock the phone.

Whats really unfair is that people who live in the richmond or petersburg area only pay 1.00 a call but all other areas are 5 to 8.00 dollars a call. The inmates here at the lawrenceville Correctional Center has requested to the warden to look into other phone services or payment options so that people such as myself can communicate with our family and children. But the warden has no instrested at all in our requests.

Im in the process of writting up an article on how the VA Dac. continues to go up on the phone and canteen prices but dont want to provide any jobs for the inmates to pay for canteen or our phone calls. So any help that I can be in



THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION-DOCKET-96-128

TO: CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
445 12<sup>th</sup> STREET, SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

SEP - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI:

I'M WRITING TO ASK THAT YOU ACT ON THE WRIGHT PETITION TO CAP INMATE TELEPHONE RATES AND STOP THE EXPLOITATION OF PRISONERS AND THEIR LOVE ONES.

AS A PRISONER WHO IS SERVING TIME IN MICHIGAN, I KNOW FIRST HAND HOW HARMFUL THE TELEPHONE RATES ARE ON PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. FOR YEARS THE STATE AND PREDATORY PHONE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN EXPLOITING US THROUGH EXCESSIVE PHONE RATES IN ORDER TO REAP HUGE PROFITS FOR THEMSELVES. IN MICHIGAN, THE STATES AND INMATE TELEPHONE COMPANY ARE MAKING \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY OVER AND ABOVE THE COST OF PROVIDING THE ACTUAL TELEPHONE SERVICE. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS.

IT IS TIME FOR THE FCC TO ACT AND PROHIBIT THESE OUTRAGEOUS RATES. IT SEEMS THAT THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE FCC SHOULD <sup>BE</sup> TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM PREDATORY BEHAVIOR. I'M HOPING THE COMMISSION DOES THE RIGHT THING AND CAP THE INMATE TELEPHONE RATES. IT IS UNFAIR TO EXPLOIT AND DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD IT. PLEASE ACT.!!!

SINCERELY,

*Richard Baldwin*  
(R. Baldwin #236673)

*Date: 8-29-2012*

August 30th, 2012

Received & Inspected

SEP 05 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12th Street, South West  
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: Public Comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket No. 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Neither my family nor I am able to afford the high cost of my prison phone calls to my very loving family and my good friends. Thus the purpose of this letter to you for prison phone billing financial relief.

Most of my family members are elderly. Moreover, they receive a monthly fixed income. As such, they cannot afford to pay the high cost for my prison phone calls.

As an inmate, I'm paid about \$20.00 per month for my work. Needless to say, I'm unable to afford the high cost to buy minutes, on the prison phone, to calls my family, friends and/or others.

In New Jersey, the phone company (GTL) and prison officials have clearly engaged in [abusive prison phone call cost practices] solely to make a substantial profit for the phone company and "kickbacks" for prison officials at the inmates' expense.

Several years ago, the former Governor of New York ordered a substantial rate reduction regarding the cost for all prison phone calls by inmates. Likewise, such substantial prison phone calls rate reductions should be immediately implemented in the State of New Jersey and at all other prison, too.

In conclusion, I would appreciate whatever assistance, if any, you would timely provide me regarding this request for relief as stated in the aforementioned.

Thank you, Chairman Genachowski.

Respectfully submitted,  
By: Scott Wayne Harris  
Scott Wayne Harris  
SBI#309836A / SP#55662  
South Woods State Prison  
215 S. Burlington Road  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302-3479

SWH/swh  
CC:File

**This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)**

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comment  
445 12th Street, South West  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

OCT -2 2012

September 25, 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to ask that you act on the WRIGHT petition to cap inmate telephone rates and stop the exploitation of prisoners and my loved ones.

I am a Michigan prisoner, serving life. Since coming to prison, I have tried to remain in close contact with my family and friends, but with each passing year it becomes more difficult **thanks** to the MDOC. While they publicly trumpet the benefits of prisoners remaining in close contact with their families, their actions' and self serving policies continue to tear at these bonds.

The one most important and critical way for myself to keep in contact with my family comes through telephone calls. But, rather than making this critical service more convenient. The MDOC has chosen instead to exploit this service for profit. They, along with predatory telephone providers', has colluded to extort and target us who can least afford it. Of the average \$3.25 charged for a 15 minute call, \$2.50 goes directly into the pockets of the MDOC and telephone providers.

After years of advocacy, in August 2008, inmates' in Michigan were finally rewarded, with lower telephone rates. Until this year, rates remained low and the MDOC never collected any funds for a special equipment fund.

The new contract with PCS includes a special equipment funds that is to be used to purchase and implement equipment that will detect contraband cell phones in the system. Although, the MDOC does not know the seize of the contraband cell phone problems. They admit few contraband cell phones have ever been discovered. Nor, has anyone ever been charged with committing a crime using a contraband cell phone.

The MDOC claims it needs its share to shore up its budget. I nor my family should not be charged outrageous rates to support prisoner budgets, that burden should be borne by the entire tax base.

It seems one of the functions of our Federal Communications Commission is to protect the consumer from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then what would? So, please put a stop to this. Cap the rates! **Finally**, no one should have to pay 30% for someone to manage their funds, as being paid to PCS. Making matters worse, PCS is collecting taxes on top of the base per-minute rates for debit and prepaid calls.

Sincerely,

*Donald Kenneth Carlson*  
Donald Kenneth Carlson #179923  
Kinross Correctional Facility  
16770 South Water Tower Drive  
Kincheloe, Michigan 49788-1902

Ramon Vicente  
AH5857 / A2-112  
P.O. Box 4430  
Lancaster, CA 93539

Received & Inspected

OCT 02 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 22, 2012

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

RE: Cost of prison calls

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to express how we are being gouged by the California Department of Corrections and the phone company GTL. The prison system chooses its contractual phone partnership by the highest kickback to them, unlike any other taxpayer system or democratic entity. One call can cost as much as \$10.00 or more dollars, while calls to other countries in the free world cost pennies.

In addition, we are part of that "poorest of the poor," who are systematically gouged in like manner. We are asking for an investigation into these un-American practices and intervention on your part to make families ties, not gouging families, the main tenent of rehabilitation as their own studies find.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best regards,

Ramon Vicente

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramon Vicente". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Irma Her

WAYNE M. PARSONS #1022667  
Buckingham Corr. Ctr.  
P.O. Box 430  
Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

Received & Inspected

OCT 02 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 26, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am a Virginia Inmate housed in the Virginia Department of Corrections. I have been incarcerated for more than 17 years dating back to 1996. I am writing to you in regards to my experiences with the high cost of prison inmate phone services, and the drastic impact it has had on my family, and our ability to communicate effectively over the years.

During my first few months of incarceration I spoke with my then wife, and daughters almost daily. This is common amongst first time offenders. The down side to it is that in being first time offenders we are not aware of the cost of utilizing the prison phone system, and the high costs associated therewith. At the time, I only had to dial the number as a local call, collect. Not knowing that we were being charged long-distance rates. In a few weeks my wife's phone bill sky rocketed without her knowledge because the calls were not showing up on her current bills. She lived in Amelia County, Virginia at the time. Amelia is a rural county with it's own telephone company. Any calls outside of the County were considered long-distance calls. Much to our dismay, her bill rose to more than \$1,000 in one month, and her service ultimately cut off due to her inability to pay the bill at that time. MCI was the service provider to Virginia prisons at the time.

Over the years we have had brief stretches where I was able to call home. However, with todays multi-media services and phone providers (many of which do not bill through MCI or what is now Global Tel Link) it is virtually impossible to find a way to maintain a link to my family through the phone services. Even with the advancements in our ability to call our family on their cell phones, the process they have to go through, and up-front down payments that are required, make it a constant hassle for our families to stay in touch. Even then, the end result costs are far more expensive than our families can afford in todays economy. In my opinion, particularly in Virginia, the prison phone system is nothing more than a money making scheme for both the service provider and the Virginia DOC. They know that our sole means of contact with the outside is primarily the phones, and they have systematically taken advantage of that at every turn!!!

Sincerely Yours,

Wayne M. Parsons

Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

FREDERICK JOHN DAVIS  
S.C.I. SOMERSET, #G44837  
1600 WALTERS MILL ROAD  
SOMERSET, PA. 15510  
(814) 443-1800  
11 SEPT 2012-

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
445 12TH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI:

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT  
PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128) CONCERNING THE EGREGIOUS  
DISREGARD FOR THE HARDSHIP CREATED BY THE ENORMOUS TOLL  
USED FOR THE CONDUCT OF TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS UPON  
PRISONERS FAMILIES AND PRISONERS THAT FAR EXCEEDS THE TOLL

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
RE: WRIGHT PETITION (cc DOCKET #96-128)

11 SEPT 2012

PAGE # 2 OF 3

Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

USED FOR THE CONDUCT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS UPON THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

PRISONERS FAMILIES AND PRISONERS ARE A MINORITY THAT ARE SINGLED OUT FOR SAID ABUSES, SEE 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> AMENDS., U.S.C.A, THAT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIAL BONDS, THERETO PROMOTE REHABILITATION, A GOAL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR POSITIVE REINTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY OF PRISONERS.

THE FACT THAT SUCH ABUSES ARE PREVALENT IS THE EXISTENCE OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES THAT MANY BUSINESS'S OFFER FOR MANOEUVRING AROUND SUCH ABUSE BY OFFERING AREA CODE PHONE NUMBERS FOR EACH PRISONERS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, AND FAIL TO ADDRESS THE ABUSE, AND THEREFORE, BECOME APART OF THE CONSPIRATORIAL EFFORTS, SEE 18 USCA §§ 241, 242, USED BY THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT OFFER INFLATED TELEPHONE SERVICE.

CURRENTLY, EACH ORGANIZATION MANOPOLIZES UPON THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE DAMAGE SUCH ABUSE CAUSES TO PRISONERS FAMILIES, AND

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
RE: WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)  
11 SEPT 2012  
PAGE # 3 OF 3

Received & Inspected  
SEP 18 2012  
FCC Mail Room

PRISONERS WHOM ARE BEING UNJUSTLY ATTACHED WITHOUT DUE  
PROCESS OF LAW. SEE 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup> AMENDS., U.S.C.A.

THE ECONOMY AND DEFICIT HAS CREATED HARDSHIPS  
THAT IS CURRENTLY SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL UPON ALL CONCERNED  
PARTIES, THAT THE ADDITION OF AN EXTRA FEE IMPOSED UPON THE  
PRISONERS FAMILIES AND PRISONERS, IS A BURDEN BEYOND THE SCOPE  
OF COURT COSTS, FINES, FEES, AND RESTITUTION IMPOSED AT SENTENCING,  
THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A ~~THE~~ COST FOR REDRESS UPON THE JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM, PURSUANT TO THE RULE OF REASON, TANTUM QUANTUM.

I PRAY THAT MY LETTER CAN BE USED FOR MY ADDITION AS  
AN et. al. PETITIONER, OR IN LIEU, BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY FOR YOUR  
REPLY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, KINDNESS, AND ANTICIPATED  
RESPONSE.

DATED: SOMERSET COUNTY, PA..  
11 SEPT 2012

CC: FILES/sjd

RESPECTFULLY,  
*Frederick John Davis*  
FREDERICK JOHN DAVIS  
S.C.F. SOMERSET, #G44837  
1600 WALTERS MILL ROAD  
SOMERSET, PA. 15510  
(814) 443-1800



Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

Kaseem Ali-X #260516  
N.J.S.P. - 3EE  
P.O. Box 861  
Trenton, N.J. 08625

September, 12, 2012

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

Re: COST

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

Dear Chairman:

I, Kaseem Ali-X, a citizen of the United States and by birth a citizen of the state of New Jersey Petition the overbearing and abusive high cost of phone services being imposed unfairly upon prisoners.

There is no fair reason to over-charge the outrageous amount of cost for prisoners phone usage. Only by abusive discretion for the sole purpose of profit is it being done without decency and respect to have prisoners remain in contact with there parents, children, friends, etc.

With today's technology the cost for phone calls are approximately .05¢ (five cents) per minute yet the prisoners, at least at the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Cubberly Building, Wittlesey Road, P.O. Box 863, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, are being unfairly over charged .34¢ (thirty four cents) per minute. This is a financial burden which hinders communication between friends and love ones.

This Petition is being filed to place a cap upon the amount of profit that can be earned by these phone companies who are providing their services and the prisons who are bound by Federal law to care for its prisoners not rob them or their family and friends by over charging cost for phone services.

Yours truly,

*Kaseem Ali-X*  
Kaseem Ali-X

"THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION"  
(CC DOCKET #96-128)

Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

MICHAEL W. OWENS #149344 C-5 B-31  
POWHATAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
STATE FARM, VIRGINIA 23160

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (F.C.C.)  
ATTN: MR. JULIUS GENACHOWSKI, CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
445 12TH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: MATTER OF PRISON PHONE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

DEAR MR. GENACHOWSKI

GREETINGS! THIS IS A RESPONSE TO AN AD THAT WAS  
PLACED IN PRISON LEGAL NEWS (PLN) IN REGARDS TO THE  
ABOVE-MENTIONED CAMPAIGN THAT IS BEING LAUNCHED  
BY THE F.C.C.

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS  
A CONTRACT WITH GLOBAL TEL-LINK (GTL), THE PREVIOUS  
TELEPHONE VENDOR WAS MCI

GLOBAL TEL-LINK HAS A "POLICY" IN REGARDS TO  
FAMILY MEMBERS "PAYING \$ 20.00 TO START AN

ACCOUNT WITH THEM IN ORDER FOR ME TO CALL MY FAMILY MEMBERS. WHAT IS UNFAIR ABOUT THIS POLICY IS THAT THE \$ 20.00 MY SISTER RECENTLY PAID TO "GTL" WILL NOT BENEFIT HER AS A CONSUMER. MOREOVER, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE ACTUALLY PAID THEIR \$20.00 TO GTL, SHE WILL STILL HAVE TO PAY A COLLECT PHONE CALL BILL TO GTL FOR SERVICES. IF SHE DOES NOT PAY THE BILL, GTL WILL BLOCK THE PHONE FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL PHONE UNTIL THE BILL IS PAID.

I'VE HAD SO CALLED "BILLING ISSUES" WITH GTL FOR NO REASON. A DEBIT SYSTEM WAS CREATED BY GTL TO ALLOW PRISONERS TO ADD MONEY TO A DEBIT ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO MAKE PRE-PAID PHONE CALLS. THE LAST TIME I TALKED TO MY SISTER (IN NEW YORK) WAS DURING THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS. I USED THE DEBIT SYSTEM TO RELIEVE HER OF PAYING THEIR TELEPHONE BILLS. WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO CALL HER SEVERAL TIMES AFTER THE 2011 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, GTL BLOCKED THE PHONE, CLAIMING THAT THERE WAS A BILLING ISSUE. THIS WAS WHAT FORCED MY SISTER TO PAY THEIR \$20.00 FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR POLICY.

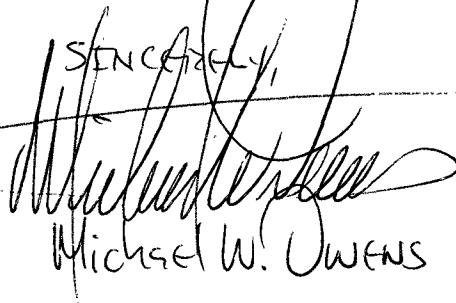
IN CONCLUSION, IT IS OBVIOUS AS TO WHY "CORPORATE AMERICA" LOBBYS THE POLITICIANS TO MAKE THE "LAWS" EVEN TOUGHER TO KEEP US IN PRISON LONGER. I'VE INSTRUCTED MY SISTER TO CONTACT THE BETTER

-3-

BUSINESS BUREAU IN NEW YORK TO REGISTER A FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST GTL. I WILL ALSO FORWARD YOUR INFORMATION AND "WEBSITE" TO HER IN SHARING HER INPUT INTO THIS MATTER. I RESPECTFULLY HOPE THAT MY COMMENTS IN THIS LETTER WILL HAVE AN IMPACT, RESULTING IN THE ERADICATION OF THIS INJUSTICE AGAINST US IN PRISON, AND OUR FAMILIES WHO ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THESE ABUSIVE POLICIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Owens". The signature is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Michael W. OWENS

Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

FREDERICK JOHN DAVIS  
S.C.I. SOMERSET, #G44837  
1600 WALTERS MILL ROAD  
SOMERSET, PA. 15510  
(814) 443-1800  
11 SEPT 2012-

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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445 12TH STREET, S.W.  
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DATED: SOMERSET COUNTY, PA..  
11 SEPT 2012

cc: FILES/sjd

RESPECTFULLY,  
*Frederick John Davis*  
FREDERICK JOHN DAVIS  
S.C.F. SOMERSET, #G44837  
1600 WALTERS MILL ROAD  
SOMERSET, PA. 15510  
(814) 443-1800

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Kaseem Ali-X #260516  
N.J.S.P. - 3EE  
P.O. Box 861  
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September, 12, 2012

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

Re: COST

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

Dear Chairman:

I, Kaseem Ali-X, a citizen of the United States and by birth a citizen of the state of New Jersey Petition the overbearing and abusive high cost of phone services being imposed unfairly upon prisoners.

There is no fair reason to over-charge the outrageous amount of cost for prisoners phone usage. Only by abusive discretion for the sole purpose of profit is it being done without decency and respect to have prisoners remain in contact with there parents, children, friends, etc.

With today's technology the cost for phone calls are approximately .05¢ (five cents) per minute yet the prisoners, at least at the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Cubberly Building, Wittlesey Road, P.O. Box 863, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, are being unfairly over charged .34¢ (thirty four cents) per minute. This is a financial burden which hinders communication between friends and love ones.

This Petition is being filed to place a cap upon the amount of profit that can be earned by these phone companies who are providing their services and the prisons who are bound by Federal law to care for its prisoners not rob them or their family and friends by over charging cost for phone services.

Yours truly,

*Kaseem Ali-X*  
Kaseem Ali-X



"THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION"  
(CC DOCKET #96-128)

Received & Inspected

SEP 18 2012

FCC Mail Room

MICHAEL W. OWENS #149344 C-5 B-31  
POWHATAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
STATE FARM, VIRGINIA 23160

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (F.C.C.)  
ATTN: MR. JULIUS GENACHOWSKI, CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
445 12TH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: MATTER OF PRISON PHONE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

DEAR MR. GENACHOWSKI

GREETINGS! THIS IS A RESPONSE TO AN AD THAT WAS  
PLACED IN PRISON LEGAL NEWS (PLN) IN REGARDS TO THE  
ABOVE-MENTIONED CAMPAIGN THAT IS BEING LAUNCHED  
BY THE F.C.C.

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS  
A CONTRACT WITH GLOBAL TEL-LINK (GTL), THE PREVIOUS  
TELEPHONE VENDOR WAS MCI

GLOBAL TEL-LINK HAS A "POLICY" IN REGARDS TO  
FAMILY MEMBERS "PAYING \$ 20.00 TO START AN

ACCOUNT WITH THEM IN ORDER FOR ME TO CALL MY FAMILY MEMBERS. WHAT IS UNFAIR ABOUT THIS POLICY IS THAT THE \$ 20.00 MY SISTER RECENTLY PAID TO "GTL" WILL NOT BENEFIT HER AS A CONSUMER. MOREOVER, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE ACTUALLY PAID THEIR \$20.00 TO GTL, SHE WILL STILL HAVE TO PAY A COLLECT PHONE CALL BILL TO GTL FOR SERVICES. IF SHE DOES NOT PAY THE BILL, GTL WILL BLOCK THE PHONE FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL PHONE UNTIL THE BILL IS PAID.

I'VE HAD SO CALLED "BILLING ISSUES" WITH GTL FOR NO REASON. A DEBIT SYSTEM WAS CREATED BY GTL TO ALLOW PRISONERS TO ADD MONEY TO A DEBIT ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO MAKE PRE-PAID PHONE CALLS. THE LAST TIME I TALKED TO MY SISTER (IN NEW YORK) WAS DURING THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS. I USED THE DEBIT SYSTEM TO RELIEVE HER OF PAYING THEIR TELEPHONE BILLS. WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO CALL HER SEVERAL TIMES AFTER THE 2011 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, GTL BLOCKED THE PHONE, CLAIMING THAT THERE WAS A BILLING ISSUE. THIS WAS WHAT FORCED MY SISTER TO PAY THEIR \$20.00 FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR POLICY.

IN CONCLUSION, IT IS OBVIOUS AS TO WHY "CORPORATE AMERICA" LOBBYS THE POLITICIANS TO MAKE THE "LAWS" EVEN TOUGHER TO KEEP US IN PRISON LONGER. I'VE INSTRUCTED MY SISTER TO CONTACT THE BETTER

-3-

BUSINESS BUREAU IN NEW YORK TO REGISTER A FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST GTL. I WILL ALSO FORWARD YOUR INFORMATION AND "WEBSITE" TO HER IN SHARING HER INPUT INTO THIS MATTER. I RESPECTFULLY HOPE THAT MY COMMENTS IN THIS LETTER WILL HAVE AN IMPACT, RESULTING IN THE ERADICATION OF THIS INJUSTICE AGAINST US IN PRISON, AND OUR FAMILIES WHO ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THESE ABUSIVE POLICIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,



Michael W. OWENS

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

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Received & Inspected

SEP - 7 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

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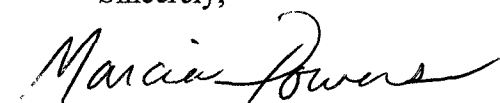
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This predatory telephone provider collects 30% of the money generated for this fund. They actually make more money from this fund than from providing the actual telephone service. For its part, the MDOC claims it needs this extra money to plug holes in the state's prison budget. Shouldn't that budget funding come through taxes equally spread across the entire tax base? It seems prisoners and families are being permitted to maintain their relationships through telephone calls only if they make a contribution to the MDOC operating budget. Their option is to not use the phone.

Excessive phone fees not only unfairly burden low-income families but also undermine the re-entry and rehabilitation efforts trumpeted by the MDOC. Taxpayers should not have to subsidize prisoner phone calls, but neither should the state and predatory phone companies make millions of dollars on the backs of some of the state's poorest people. This fund is generating over \$9 million annually. Keep in mind, this fund has nothing to do with the necessary cost of providing the telephone service; it's strictly pure profit and greed.

It seems the main function of our FCC is to protect consumers from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then I don't know what would. Please cap these rates and do the right thing.

Sincerely,



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Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
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Sincerely,

Dee Dee Wilder

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Federal Communications Commission  
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*Evangeline Wolosowicz*

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Federal Communications Commission  
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Sincerely,

*Melissa Crane*

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Federal Communications Commission  
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*Faticia Hoss*

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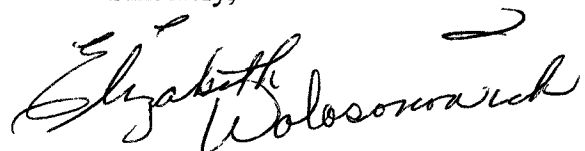
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445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
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Sincerely,

*Alicia Bragg*

"This is a public comment for the  
wright petition (cc socket # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Gerachowski,

Received & Inspected

SEP - 7 2012

FCC Mail Room

I've come across a bulletin addressing  
the high phone calls and I commend you  
and all those that have raised a voice  
for us behind these walls. I've been in  
this prison for 7 yrs now, have seen the  
phone calls constantly grow beyond a  
reachable amount.

I use to be able to speak to my  
love ones at anytime before consolidated  
forced us to pay a separate phone bill  
for the collect calls, which are 7\$ per one  
call during morning hours until 6:00pm,  
which then cost 6\$ then which is still too  
much. Before consolidated force us to pay  
a separate phone bill our cost was only  
2-3\$ a call which was manageable. For  
7\$ and/or 6\$ you are allowed up to 4-5 calls  
when before that, you were able to call any  
given time up to however many calls you  
liked. I call home now every couple months  
or so due to the fact my family isn't able  
to be paying extra phone bills like that, when  
it was included with the normal phone bill it

was much more easier and manageable as well. Consolidated cost way too much for less amount of calls. I thank you all and hope for good results behind everything.

Received & Inspected

SEP - 7 2012

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the Wright  
petition (CL Docket # 96-128)

I cant talk to my family often Cause the  
Cost of living is so high and to put money  
on the phone is so expensive. Cant call  
My kids Cause there is barley money for  
food it's so expensive. please speak out, and  
if something beneficial happen let me  
know please.

Sincerely yours  
Stewen Hebron



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

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SEP - 7 2012  
FCC Mail Room

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Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
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Sincerely,



Received & Inspected

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

Olivia V. Thomas  
6101 Peggy Ann Court  
Suitland, Maryland 20746

September 13, 2012-09-13

Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
Attention: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I am writing to you regarding the impact of the high cost of prison phone calls have and still has on me and my family. The Securus Phone Company which our phone calls goes through has limited us from seeking other sources of less expensive phone companies for less money stating that it is illegal and so forth.

Please see if there are other alternatives that can be taken to lessen this burden and it will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for all that you can do for us.

Sincerely,

  
Olivia V. Thomas

Dortell Williams  
H-45771 / A2-206  
P.O. Box 4430  
Lancaster, CA 93539

Received & Inspected

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 2, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
4451 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: The cost of prison phone calls

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I am writing to express the hardships me and my family have endured due to the exorbitant rates we are charged to maintain contact during my incarceration. I am absolutely flabbergasted that in an era where international calls can be made for pennies, we are charged, with little or no choice, to pay nearly a dollar or more a minute for the lowest quality service. In addition, several suits have been filed against some of the largest phone providers and many times they were forced to give refunds for cheating us. But they are never formally charged, nor do they have to admit to wrong doing so the potential for profits and the small risk of consequence serves as an incentive to continue gouging-type practices.

As a result, and exacerbated by the economic downturn, we simply cannot afford to communicate. Other than letters, which many on the outside have no time to respond to, I am virtually excommunicated. The paradox is that prisons are supposed to promote public safety. family ties is a proven method of post-release success. But the system as it is destroys families, and has the opposite affect on public safety. Further, in today's technological age, there is no way to convince me that prison authorities cannot monitor our calls much more cheaply than they claim. The fact is, during the bidding process, the companies that offer the largest kick-backs to the prisons are rewarded the contract. This practice flies in the face of standard fair practice traditions and takes advantage of the most vulnerable sub-groups in the country; the poorest of the poor.

Finally, the current practice of defacto prohibitions on phone use incentivize prisoners to utilize more desperate measures to maintain family ties, such as the use of illegal cell phones. What's ironic here is that the California legislature has declared that prison staff are the most prevalent source of these phones into the institutions, yet the guards and their union, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, vehemently fought against being searched upon entering the institutions, placing us in a most precarious situation; tantamount to entrapping those who enter into the temptation.

In a word, the entire setup is evil.

Sincerely,

  
Dortell Williams

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

Received & Inspected

Dear Chairman Genachowski

SEP 17 2012

9-8-12

FCC Mail Room

I am an Inmate at Mount Olive Correctional Complex in West Virginia and the high cost of phone calls limits me from talking to my family. I only call my dad and grandpa once a week and my wife I call three times a week. The phone cuts me off multiple times through out the call and my family has trouble understanding me because they say I sound like I'm underwater. My wife prepays her phone and sometimes the account will be missing money. They only live one hour and a half away from me in Huntington and Lesage and each call cost them about \$3.50 and I think that is to much especially for the bad service that comes with it. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely  
Juan Short 43667  
*Juan Short*

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

---

---

BARTON R. GAINES  
TDCJ # 01139507  
HH COFFIELD UNIT  
2661 FM 2054  
TENN. COLONY, TX 75884

SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

Received & Inspected

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

445 12TH STREET, SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554  
[www.phonejustice.org](http://www.phonejustice.org)  
<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display.action?z=whn8> (enter  
docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Using the phone is very expensive in prison. My grandmother recently was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This is her third bout with cancer. She also had a stroke. She probably will not live longer than 6 months.

When I first got locked up and my grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer, I called every night. Her phone bill was astronomical as a result, but we love each other very very much and she accepted and paid the bill. She is my most loved and favorite person in this whole wide world.

Seven years later she got thyroid cancer and her phone bill spiked yet again -- in addition to my usual calls.

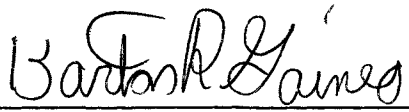
A little over a year later she had a massive stroke that left her unable to speak, write, and pretty much use her left side.

Presently she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer -- some two years later; i.e., after the stroke -- and I am calling every night to console her and get her ready for the after life -- just basically trying to help her not be scared. She has got to be offully scared. I cry a lot, but I don't let her hear it. I don't want her to be scared. Because I can't be there in person, once again, I call and call often. I don't want to miss a minute, and I want to stay posted.

As you can imagine, over the months and years and sicknesses, we have spent several several several thousand dollars. It is madness for the phone companies to profit off human suffering -- especially in today's time; people communicate to the other side of the world for nothing. I can't even call within the state without paying dearly for it. Something should be done about it, and hepefully the FCC can step in to do something

about this massive profiteering at the expense of human suffering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barton R. Gaines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Barton R. Gaines

**This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION \* (CC DOCKET #96-128).**

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

**Received & Inspected**

**SEP 17 2012**

**FCC Mail Room**

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing to express my concern over the outrageous cost of telephone calls made from the prisons in the state of Wisconsin system and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Our family includes three children who are now teenagers and have had limited verbal contact with their father for the past 6 years because of the high cost of collect calls and of calls that are pre-paid at alarming rates which include surcharges beyond a price per minute structure. This system must change.

Our family is made to suffer with the loss of a parent due to criminality, but it should not be made to further suffer for the financial benefit of corporations whose industry is in collusion with the prison systems to take advantage of a truly captive market and of vulnerable families.

Our family as a whole is forced to go without personal need items on a monthly basis for the ability to maintain verbal contact, which is already a poor substitute for contact visits in person, which are entirely too cost prohibitive given the vast distances the prisons are from our home.

Please recognize that some regulation must be enacted to stop these companies and prison systems from taking advantage of inmates and their families for the sake of profits and benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

September 10, 2012

*Juliana Dorak*

Date: 9-2-12

Received & Inspected

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

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

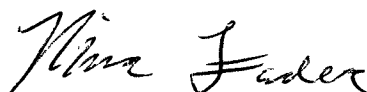
I am writing on behalf of the Prison Phone Justice Campaign. The high cost of prison phone calls has impacted the life of my family and I am sure the life of many others with loved ones in the prison system. This is a nationwide issue, but my concern concentrates in Michigan.

Three years ago my uncle was sentenced to many years of prison time. A devastated man went to prison and sought the loving support of many friends and family in his time of correction. However, he had to write many letters and use almost an entire weeks pay to call his daughter twice a week. That means that as his niece I didn't get a call for my birthday this year, no goodbye and safe travels wished before I left for a long vacation in Europe, and have to compete in a whole room of family at Christmas as we play hot potato with the phone trying to all say hi and merry Christmas before the time on the call is up. There is no opportunity to verbally love on my uncle and continue to help him in his recovery and correction in prison under these circumstances.

How is a man or women who are stripped from the physical outside world expected to keep on good behavior and truly change their lives for the better when they are stripped from the emotional outside world as well. Without being able to talk to family, they get too depressed to care. And why can't they talk to their family and friends on the phone again? Because of the high cost of phone rates. The rates are actually abusive when you think of the financial and emotional burden they place on the prisoners and families. I would greatly appreciate you looking into this matter and considering an approach to lowering the phone call costs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Nina Fader



September 11, 2012

Received & Inspected

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communication Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

Re: Public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This letter addresses my concerns about the excessive cost of prison inmate initiated phone calls. I am speaking for California prisoners, as well as California inmates housed in out-of-state private facilities. The high cost of these phone calls impacts not only the inmate, but also his family and friends on the outside.

The vast majority of these prisoners do not have a substantial source of income to pay for calls to their homes and families. Often, these phone calls could be the only source of family contact they have. Trying to keep a connection to those incarcerated is a major effort for both the inmates and their families. Sometimes, a phone call is the only personal touch they get and frequently it allows them a sense of hope and a connection to the outside world.

My complaint regarding the cost of these prisoner initiated phone calls is that the cost is excessive. The phone companies contracted for the various prisons often charge a disproportionate amount to place these phone calls. Tremendous charges for Federal taxes are always added on the charges issued by the contracted phone company.

A charge of nearly \$9.00 for a less than thirty minute call is entirely too much. These excessive charges present a hardship on both the inmates and their families.

In all due respect, I ask that your commission examine the costs of prisoner phone calls by the various contracting phone services. Someone needs to provide some insight into prisoner's rights regarding the excessive charges for their phone services.

Yours truly,



Joyce Clevenger  
720 Wendt Terrace  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

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

August 29th, 2012

Received & Inspected

Karen V. Peevey  
12325 Wild Oak Circle  
South Lyon, MI. 48178

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski, I am writing you about the high phone rates that I have been paying over the past ten years that my son has been incarcerated in the Michigan Department of Corrections. At the beginning of his imprisonment the phone calls were as much as eight dollars each. Since then the prices have come down, but this is still a big expense. I once read a newspaper article about the Michigan Dept. of Correction adding an additional fee onto the phone rates to help pay cost within the department. We already pay enough taxes and I feel that we are getting hit twice to support the MDCC's budget.

Any help that you can provide to reduce this hardship would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and effort in this request.

Sincerely,

  
Karen V. Peevey

September 7, 2012

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

Received & Inspected

SEP 17 2012

FCC Mail Room

RE: Complaint, Global Tel\*Link (GTL)

Dear Sirs,

Because my complaint is so large and may encompass literally hundreds of families I decided to write this in letter form and request your immediate intervention to bring this matter under close investigation without delay.

My complaint is with Global Tel\*Link (GTL) who currently provides phone service to the Shasta County Jail via contract with the Shasta County Board of Supervisors who in my opinion are no less guilty of illegal acts due to their active participation at receiving 55% of the gross revenues charged by GTL for calls made by inmates from their jail facility and for other issues complained herein. I have repeatedly made attempts to bring this matter to their attention without resolve and I am considering separate legal action against them if it becomes necessary. As a simple matter of reference the Shasta County Board of Supervisors entered into this contract on or about August 2007 by vote and I have attached a printed excerpt detailing the event.

**LAW AND JUSTICE SHERIFF  
AGREEMENT: GLOBAL TEL LINK CORPORATION  
EQUIPMENT AND CARRIER SERVICES  
JAIL INMATE PAYPHONES**

At the recommendation of Sheriff/Coroner Tom Bosenko and by motion made, seconded (Hartman/Hawes), and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized the Chairman to sign a Letter of Agency and an agreement with Global Tel Link Corporation to provide, install, and maintain inmate phone equipment and carrier services for jail inmate pay phones for the period August 2, 2007 through August 1, 2012, with two automatic one-year renewals, with compensation to the County of 55 percent of the gross revenues. Supervisor Cibula voted no as he disagrees with spreading the costs to the inmates and because a Request for Proposal was not pursued.

As you can see, at least one supervisor was concerned enough with ethics to disagree, citing costs and properly putting the matter up for bid rather than get caught-up in the greed and the potential issues which violate State and/or Federal law.

My complaint in brief alleges, among other things, that GTL fails to fully and adequately disclose certain charges that will be incurred in connection with the use of GTL's telephone service and the rates that will be charged for calls made using GTL's telephone service;

GTL's failure to disclose certain practices followed by GTL in connection with their telephone service that adversely affect my customer account; and GTL's practice of "cramming" unauthorized charges on customer accounts through various un-ethical practices.

I further allege that GTL is attempting to carry out a scheme to deliberately cheat large numbers of consumers out of individually small sums of money, because I find it highly improbable that of the hundreds of families of those incarcerated in the Shasta County Jail I am the only person to experience these illegal atrocities.

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My first issue of complaint primarily addresses the service fees applicable to GTL's Advance Pay account, i.e., the approximate 20% fee imposed on credit and debit cards used to fund pre-paid accounts for receiving calls from the Shasta County Jail. When a customer first establishes an advance pay account with GTL, you are required to make an initial prepayment of either twenty five or fifty dollars in order to create an advance pay balance. However, GTL fails to inform their customers up front that they will be charged a service fee of either \$4.75 (for a \$25 dollar initial prepayment) or \$9.50 (for a \$50 dollar initial prepayment) and that the service fee will be deducted from their advance pay balance. Defendants also fail to inform their customers that they will be charged an additional service fee at the rate of \$4.75 or \$9.50 for any subsequent pre payments and that those service fees also will be deducted from their advance pay balance. The ONLY alternative is to send a pre-payment by mail which they warn could take several weeks to post. Essentially no alternative at all.. Furthermore, these fees of \$4.75 and \$9.50 respectively are reported to be the cost associated with processing a credit card payment. GTL does not disclose which merchant service it uses to process a customer's credit card nor do they justify why the rate is in excess of 300% higher than the average charged by a merchant service to process a credit card payment.

My complaint also asserts that GTL has an obligation under California law to maintain a live customer service operator 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and to not route incoming customer service calls directly into GTL's "call back" queue. In addition, I also allege several federal causes of action, including failing to provide "just and reasonable" service under the Federal Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 201.

GTL charges for calls according to a rate schedule that varies according to the distance between the customer receiving the call and the incarcerated person making the call, However, GTL does not disclose the per-minute rate that they will be charged for calls at the time the customer establishes the account and rarely, if ever, does the per minute rate and connect fee ever match the actual call. For example; after paying GTL \$50.00 one week the wife and I timed our calls that we got believing that the money was going simply too fast. For that \$50.00 payment we got two calls from our grand daughter and both calls (six minutes and five minutes respectively) totaled eleven minutes exhausted our account balance. We roughly figured we were charged more than \$3.00 per minute plus connect fees.

Customers of GTL don't learn of the service fees or the per-minute rates until long after they have already paid them because GTL does not send its customers monthly account statements. Rather, only if customer requests an account statement will GTL provide one to the customer and they are extremely difficult to decipher.

In fact it has taken me a couple of angry emails to the County Board of Supervisors before some of my immediate issues were addressed by Captain Beltrain with the Shasta County Sheriff's Department. His calls to me was very courteous and he did in fact investigate some of my complaint, one of the phones not working properly and persistent blatant over charging that GTL was doing. As of this letter there is no outcome on the over charges.

To summarize my complaint in legal terms I submit the following:

## **FIRST COMPLAINT**

*Violation Of The Federal Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 201*

GTL is a common carrier engaged in interstate wireless communications for the purpose of furnishing communication services within the meaning of §201(a) of the Federal Communications Act ("FCA").

GTL practices complained of herein constitute unjust and unreasonable charges and practices in connection with communication service and, therefore, violate §201(b) of the FCA. In addition, GTL's failure to make full and adequate disclosures of these practices to their customers violate CFR §64.2401 and, therefore, violates §201(b) of the FCA.

As a direct and proximate result of GTL's violations of §201(b) of the FCA, I and other families of incarcerated persons at the Shasta County Jail have been damaged monetarily and will continue to suffer damages without your investigation and/or immediate intervention.

## **SECOND COMPLAINT**

*Violation of the Sherman Act 15 U.S.C. §1*

Both the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and GTL are equally guilty here under the law. GTL's practices complained of herein constitute a violation of the Sherman Act that was further propagated by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors when, without entertaining any "Request for Proposal" entered into an agreement with GTL for a 55% kickback of the gross revenues. Similar law exists in California and the parties knew or should have known that State or Federal law prohibited such action.

*Violation Of The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §1750, et seq.*

The CLRA applies to GTL's actions and conduct described herein because it extends to transactions that are intended to result, or that have resulted, in the sale or lease of goods or services to consumers.

I and other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail are a "consumer" within the meaning of California Civil Code §1761(d).

The telephone service that I obtained through GTL comes within the definition of "services" set forth in California Civil Code §1761(b).

By engaging in the practices alleged herein and by failing to make full and adequate disclosures to their customers concerning these practices, GTL has violated, and continues to violate, the CLRA in at least the following respects:

(a) in violation of section 1770(a)(4) of the CLRA, GTL has used deceptive representations in connection with services;

(b) in violation of section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA, GTL has represented that services have characteristics or benefits which they do not have; and

(c) in violation of section 1770(a)(14) of the CLRA, GTL has represented that a transaction confers or involves rights or benefits which it does not have or involve.

Unless GTL is enjoined from continuing to engage in these violations of the CLRA, I and other other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail will continue to be injured by GTL's actions and conduct.

### **THIRD COMPLAINT**

*Violation of the Clayton Act 15 U.S.C. §§ 12, 13, 14 et. seq.*

As with my second complaint the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, I contend, are equally guilty and knew, or have known, that state and/or federal law prohibited the actions complained herein. Thus, violated said law when, without entertaining any "Request for Proposal" entered into an agreement with GTL for a 55% kickback of the gross revenues.

*Violation Of The Unfair Competition Law - California Business And Professions Code §17200, et. seq.*

GTL has engaged in and continues to engage in the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices alleged herein and have failed and continue to fail to make adequate disclosures to their customers concerning these practices.

By engaging in these practices, GTL has committed one or more acts of unfair competition within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code §17200.

GTL's practices are unfair because GTL does not fully and adequately disclose their practices to their customers at the time that their customers establish an advance pay account with GTL and, therefore, are immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to me and other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail.

GTL's practices are unlawful because they violate, inter alia, §201(b) of the FCA, CPUC §2890, CFR §64.2401 and §1770 of the CLRA.

GTL has further engaged in an unlawful practice in violation of California Business and Professions Code §17538.9 (b)(6)(A) in that GTL has failed to maintain a live operator to answer incoming calls to GTL's toll free number 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Instead, GTL maintains a toll free number during the hours of 6 AM to 10 PM Monday thru Friday and 8 AM to 7 PM on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, calls to GTL's customer service center are often routed directly into GTL's automated call back system.

GTL's' practices are fraudulent because they have deceived and are likely to deceive me and other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail.

Unless GTL is enjoined from continuing to engage in these unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent practices, I and the other other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail will continue to be injured by GTL's practices.

## **FIFTH COMPLAINT**

### *Violation Of California Public Utilities Code §2890*

Although simply a State violation, GTL has engaged in and continues to engage in the unlawful practices alleged herein and have failed and continue to fail to make full and adequate disclosures to their customers concerning these practices.

California Public Utility Code §2890 "addresses the problem of 'cramming,' a practice in which consumers are charged for unauthorized services in their phone bills. . . . Often the charges which are 'crammed' on the customer's bill are relatively small, less than \$10, and inconspicuously labeled. If one does not carefully scrutinize the telephone bill, the crammed charge could easily be overlooked."

By cramming unauthorized service charges on their customers' accounts, and/or wildly charging for their services without recourse GTL has violated California Public Utility Code §2890 which states, inter alia, that "a telephone bill may only contain charges for products or services, the purchase of which the subscriber has authorized."

As a direct and proximate result of GTL's violations of California Public Utility Code §2890, I and other families of the incarcerated at the Shasta County Jail are being and will continue to be harmed without your investigation and immediate intervention.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Rayburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Rayburn

William Rayburn  
PO Box 442  
Long Beach, WA. 98631  
360-642-4901 Home  
360-642-4993 Office  
503-338-9761 Cell  
E-mail:  
[premtch@willapabay.org](mailto:premtch@willapabay.org)

This is a public comment for the <sup>Received & Inspected</sup> Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

OCT - 1 2012

FCC Mail Room

It is my hope that something will be done to standardize prison collect call rates + make them more comparable with commercial collect call rates. I have been unable to speak with most of my family members over the last 10 years of my incarceration because they live across the country + the cost of calls are exorbitant. Besides the cost of the calls, the company which has a monopoly on our prisons calling system requires our families to pay a sign-up fee + also deducts a service fee from every payment into the account (which must be pre-paid).

The fact that prisons are allowed to profit from our phone calls seems morally wrong when the cost of phone calls is considered. While I see no harm in their recovering the costs of the system + maintenance, their profit margin should not be what is preventing me from speaking to my grandmother who lives on Social Security.

Please take into consideration our children + families even if you do not have any regard for us.

Michelle Ther



Received & Inspected

OCT - 1 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 23, 2012

Christopher Demison

03092-095

USP Florence, ADMAX

P.O. Box 8500

Florence, CO 81226-8500

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Federal Communications Commission

Public Comments

445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW

Washington, DC 20551

RE: Public Comment for the Wright Petition (cc docket #96 to

Greetings,

I am writing in support of the Wright Petition seeking reform in the regulations that govern pricing of telephonic services available to prisoners.

As a prisoner I can attest to the disparate and unfair pricing which have over the years placed a tremendous financial burden upon my family and myself.

The current system is unfair. Prisoners should have the same access to communications insofar as price per call as anyone else.

Respectfully,  


OCT - 1 2012

FCC Mail Room

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2012


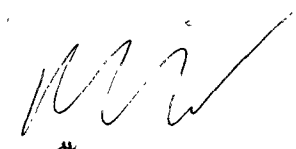
"Dear Chairman Genachowski",

I bring forth this letter for the sole purpose of sharing my personal experience in respects to the high cost of prison phone calls.

I am currently an inmate imprisoned within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Jeffrey Mitchell # P74032. By being a resident of Chicago, Ill and being confined at Cook's State Prisons I'm dependant upon the prison phone system due to the inability of my family to visit me on a frequent basis, so my only route of communication via keeping in contact with my

family is through the PHONE SYSTEM. BUT BECAUSE OF \$ 10.00 DOLLARS (COST) FOR EVERY 30 MINUTE PHONE CALL ALOT OF THE TIMES I BE UNABLE TO USE THE PHONE AS WELL DUE TO THE HIGH COST. I COME FROM A STRUGGLING LOW CLASS FAMILY HOME WHERE THE FLOW OF INCOME IS NOT PLENTIFUL AND MOST OF THE TIME MONEY IS ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR ,SO MY FAMILY GOES THE EXTRA MILE TO TRY AND ENSURE THAT MONEY IS KEPT ON THE PHONE BUT HOWEVER, IT NEVER SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH. I ASK THAT YOU INTERVENE AND PREVENT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS EXPLOITATION OF THE HIGH COST FOR PRISON CALLS,

Respectfully:

151    
# A74032

TRULINCS 29149001 - THOMAS, BARRY A - Unit: MON-O-F

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FROM: 29149001  
TO:  
SUBJECT: This is a public comment for the Wright Petition  
DATE: 09/24/2012 06:35:07 PM

Received & Inspected  
OCT - 1 2012  
FCC Mail Room

September 24, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communication Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing in response to the solicitation for public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128). As a first-time offender and recently incarcerated, I am shocked at the extremely high costs of phone calls and emails. Currently, I am paid \$.12 per hour in my work assignment. Fortunately, I have a full day assignment. Many only work half days. However, a long distance call to my family costs \$.23 per minute or \$13.80 per hour. Local calls and emails cost \$.04 per minute. In my case, I work almost the entire month in order to talk with my family for one hour.

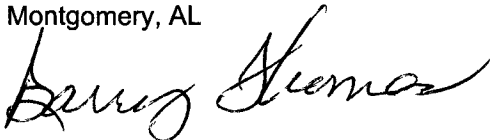
The outrageous costs of phone calls and emails present a tremendous amount of undue stress on the family unit. The Bureau of Prisons and the federal government, in its infinite wisdom, sees this as a form of punishment for the inmates. This is actually punishment for the parents, spouses, and children. What the Bureau of Prisons and government fail to recognize is that limiting our ability to communicate with our families leads to breakdowns of the family unit. These breakdowns translate into higher divorce rates and increased social costs in the forms of Food Stamps, Medicare, and other assistance programs.

While at home, I enjoyed minimal (if any) costs for local and long distance services. If such services are available for the individual consumer at such low costs, why can't the government access such services? Physical separation from our families presents enough stress and anxiety on the overall unit. It is equally as hard for the spouse and children as it is for the inmate. My spouse is currently working two jobs in her efforts to maintain the household. She is unable to send me any support. I do not see the justification and logic behind the increased pressure on the innocent.

I applaud your efforts in this matter. Keeping my family unit together is paramount. Reducing the high costs of communication thus, allowing more time with my family would relieve much undue pressure on my wife and children. It is one thing for the guilty to be punished. Charging guilt and punishment only to a family relationship is grossly over-reaching.

Sincerely yours,

Barry A. Thomas  
Maxwell Federal Prison Camp  
Montgomery, AL



Received & inspected

OCT - 1 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 21, 2012

Theresa Torricellas  
W#21722 CIW/EA-425L  
16756 Chino-Corona Rd.  
Corona, CA 92880-9508

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

RE: Submission of public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Dear Chairman,

As a long time prisoner (28 consecutive years in state prison in CA), I wish to express the need for less expensive phone calls. A situation occurring this week to me demonstrates the importance of being able to liberally communicate with family and/or friends on the outside.

I have been married 20 years, and my husband is my only visitor and the main person I speak with on the phone on a regular basis. He is in his mid 60's and has undergone several medical crises this year putting him in the hospital,

My husband lives alone and the only person in his vicinity to check on him is his landlord, who happens to be gone for a month to travel up the coast in an RV.

I usually call my spouse only once during the weekdays because he says he only has a phone plan that allows him 450 minutes a month. If I call collect on the weekdays, it uses up his minutes which he needs for job searching and phone interviews. Therefore, other than one mid week phone call, I try to restrict my calls to the weekend, where his phone minutes aren't used up but he still gets charged (he has a landline and a cell phone).

When my husband didn't pick up the phone mid-week, I got worried given his recent medical problems this year and the fact I had no alternative way to check on him. After several more days of this, I really started to panic.

Although there were several people I wanted to call to see if they could get an answer on his phone by calling direct, I hesitated to call because it supposedly costs more to call on the weekdays (at least collect, which is the only kind of call prisoners can make in CA).

I finally called a friend because I was worrying myself sick over it, and they were able to call his numbers direct. One #, the one I usually call, wasn't working, but his cell phone (which I can't call collect) was working. He told my friend he was ok and there must have been a problem when he put the call forwarding on his landline to his cell phone.

It is a good thing she was able to get through because if I hadn't heard he was ok, my next move was to call someone up to call the local Sheriff to check on him, and kick the door down if need be, since for

all

and no one would know or find out until the landlord showed up weeks later and went to ask for his mail (which my husband collects for him in his absence).

The point of all this is if the phone rates were cheaper (or made cheaper for prisoners who are forced to make collect calls only) my husband, and friends could better afford to take my phone calls, ~~and~~ I wouldn't have to worry needlessly because the expense of keeping in touch and communicating being cost prohibitive.

Likewise, when my husband's emergency medical situations put him in the hospital twice this year, although he had his cell phone with him (and had the sense to call 911 when he needed it), there was a delay before I found out because of my "restricted calling schedule" whereby I intentionally seek to limit my weekday calls to him to once a week to avoid using up his limited cell phone minutes.

Thank you for considering my comments and your ~~consideration~~ *consideration of the*  
*wright petition.*

*Sincerely,*  
*Theresa Bricellas*

Received & Inspected

OCT - 1 2012

FCC Mail Room

Michael June, #76496  
Erie County Holding Center  
40 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14202

September 25, 2012

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

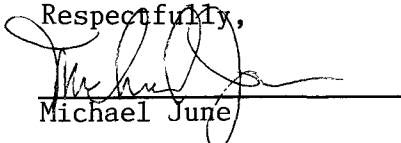
RE: Phone Service Contract

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I believe that the phone service being provided by the jail through the phone company ICSolutions is illegal and violates both my constitutional rights and the Sherman Antitrust Act, by charging exorbitant pjonese charges and rates to inmates that exceed the costs associated with maintaining such phone service.

The contract, which I am being denied access to by the jail, prohibits me or my family from seeking an alternative phone service carrier that charges less. If I do not put money into a pre-paid phone account I am denied making any outgoing calls. The phone company charges a \$9 fee for everytime money is added into the account, plus a \$1.50 connection fee and 10¢ a minute for 15 minutes. This is an anti-competitive contract and it forces me and my family to cough up the \$9 fee or no calls can be made or accepted. This is wholly unfair because I know of phone companies that charge less fees. Additionally the phone company has denied me the use of making any collect calls. Every call must be through ICSolutions and must be pre-paid.

I request that you please look into this issue/complaint and if possible, please send me a copy of the contract that the Erie County Holding Center has with the phone company ICSolutions. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
  
Michael June

file/mj

OCT - 3 2012

FCC Mail Room

Garrett Rushing

# 10706-091

USP - TUCSON

Date: 9-27-12

P.O. Box 24550

Tucson, AZ 85734

"This is a public comment for the Wright petition  
Dear Chairman Genachowski, (CC Docket #96-128)

Being myself, my brother Derick Mancuso, and my sister Toni Mancuso are currently incarcerated simultaneously, and the fact my mother Debra Mancuso and Step-father Rick Mancuso are both out of work and are forced to survive ~~struggling~~<sup>or</sup> succumbing to federal fundings.

Due to the fact that my parents are barely able to afford the bare necessities, they can hardly afford the excessive cost of prison phone calls.

This is a direct cause partly to the separation of my family. I have only talked to my mother once in the past two months. I've only talked to one of my other brothers (Bicky Mancuso) once in the past few years.

Because of the soul reason for lack



of money, I have severely lost contact with not only my family but society. At times while lying in my bunk I often wonder how will I 'fit' back into society? Sometimes, I'm not even sure if I'm "normal" or what "normal" is any more.

There is a strong passionate energy inside me that motivates me to the extent I want to succeed, yet I know I lack the 'tools' to honestly 'make it' once I'm free.

When I take a genuine inventory of myself, this is a very discouraging fact to comprehend. I am of the understanding that humans are creatures of habit and being we are habitual it would be easy to say since I have been forced to retract all interaction to be limited to my fellow criminal inmates, the realization of the high rate of recidivism due to draconian lucrative choices of the "powers that be" within this justice ~~system~~ system I can easily say are dispiriting and demoralizing.

I can only pray we may find relief.

9/27/12

Thank You  
Datto  
Garrett Bushing 10706 091

①

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

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC. 20554

Received & Inspected

OCT - 3 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask that the FCC take action against the abusive cost of prison phone calls.

I can't speak for every state in America but the cost of inmate phone calls at Mississippi State Penitentiary are prohibitively expensive. My mother lives in Springfield, Oregon and my remaining living paternal family lives in Kansas. I have been ~~incarcerated~~ incarcerated in Mississippi for eight years and the cost of a call to Oregon has prevented me from speaking to my mother even a single time. I am an only child and my father has passed away. Not being able to talk to my mother has literally put her in therapy. I have two aunts living in Kansas. These two are the last of my father's line and neither have children except for me. I am able to call once in a while but the cost per call is \$25.00 for 15-20 minutes and that is before including the service charges and fees.

→

②

Public comment for Wright Petition (cc Packet #)  
96-128

These outrageous prices have done and continue to do so much damage to my family and our mental state.

I am begging you to end the abusive cost of prison phone calls in Mississippi and throughout the entire United States. Thank you for any help you provide.

I remain,

Roger Gillett

Roger Gillett #133700

Unit 29-J

Parchman, Ms.

38738

Received & Inspected

OCT -3 2012

FCC Mail Room

MR. WILLIAM P. JENKINS  
PO. BOX #10  
VALHALLA, N.Y. 10595

TO: FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION,  
CHAIRMAN: JULIUS GENACHOWSKI

RE: THE QUESTIONABLE TACKTICK OF GLOBAL-TEL-LINK INC.

DEAR, CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

I AM WRITING YOU IN REGARDS TO THE ACTIONS OF GLOBLE-TEL-LINK  
WITCH ARE EXPLAINED IN THE ATT: LETTER. A COPY OF WITCH HAS BEEN  
SENT TO "THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS" "THE NEW YORK POST""THE WESTCHESTER  
JOURNAL NEWS" AND YOURSELF. ANNEX TO THAT IS A LETTER FROM MY MOTHER  
WHO IS TRYING TO BE FORCE TO BUY A SERVICE THAT SHE SHOULD NOT NEED.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION ON THIS MATTER.

MR. WILLIAM P. JENKINS

William P Jenkins

MR. WILLIAM P. JENKINS  
PO. BOX #10  
VALHALLA, N.Y. 10595

TO:

RE: THE UNDERHANDED & STRONG ARM TACTICS OF GLOBAL-TEL-LINK INC.  
PHONE PROVIDER FOR THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY JAIL...

I WILLIAM P. JENKINS AN MY FAMILY AS CONSUMERS OF THE SERVICES OF GLOBAL-TEL-LINK BY WAY OF VERIZON, ARE NOW EXPERIENCING A PARSELL SHUTDOWN OF OUR PHONE SERVICE AND ARE BEING GIVEN THE RUN AROUND BY GLOBAL-TEL-LINK, INORDER TO STORNGARM AND FORCE PEOPLE TO BUY THERE (PER PAYED PHONE PLAN). OVER MANY YEARS I HAVE BEEN COMING TO THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY JAIL AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ONGOING PRACTICE THROUGH VERIZON/AT&T TO ADD THE AMOUNT OF THE CALLS THROUGH GLOBAL-TEL-LINK TO THERE BILLING WTIH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD FORWARD PAYMENT TO GLOBAL-TEL-LINK. IF YOU DID NOT PAY THE AMOUNT UNDER GLOBAL-TEL-LINK YOUR SERVICE WOULD BE BLOCKED FROM GLOBAL-TEL-LINK BUT YOUR SERVICE WOULD REMAIN THE SAME WITH VERISON LESS THE GLOBAL SERVICE. NOW ALL OF A SUDEN GLOBAL IS BLOCKING PEOPLES SERVICE AN SAY-ING IF THE INMATE MAKES MORE THEN \$40.00 IN CALLS IN A 60, DAY TIME SPAN THAT THEY BLOCK THE LINE IN WHICH THE CALLS ARE MAD TO. I FIND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE, BECAUSE IF AN INMATE MAKES MORE THAN \$40.00 WORTH OF CALLS AND YOUR FAMILY PAYS THE BILL. THEN WHAT GIVES GLOBAL THE RIGHT TO BLOCK YOUR LINE, THEN TRY TO FORCE YOUR FAMILY TO BUY A PRE PAYED CALLING PLAN, AT 3 TO 4 TIMES THE COST THAT OUR FAMILY ARE PAY-ING THROUGH VERIZON/AT&T.

(2)

THEY HAVE GIVEN PRIOR NOTICE TO CONSUMERS AS TO ANY CHANGES IN REGARDS TO THIS \$40.00 BLOCKING SYSTEM. I HAVE SPOKEN TO (SGT,S) AND CAPTENS HERE AT THE JAIL, AND THEY KNOW NOTHING OF THIS SO-CALLED \$40.00 BLOCKING SYSTEM.

SO IF IN FACT THIS IS THE CASE THEN WHEN WAS THE JAIL AND THE INMATE CONSUMERS AND THERE FAMILYS GOING WHO ARE FORCE TO USE THESE PHONES HERE AT THE JAIL GOING TO BE TOLD ABOUT THESE CHANGES, IF IN FACT THESE CHANGES WERE MADE.

SO THE INMATES WOULD BE ABLE TO REGULATE THERE USE OF THE PHONES AND OR NOTIFY THERE FAMILYS AS TO THE CHANGE. I FEEL THIS IS A BLANTANT ATTEMPT TO RASE REVENUES AT THE COST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO OTHER MEANS TO CONTACT THEIR FAMILYS.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS THE SAME GLOBAL-TEL-LINK PHONE SERVICE THAT WAS REMOVED FROM ALL NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S JAILS FOR EXCESSIVE PRICING. SO I APPEAL TO YOU FOR A FORUM IN WHICH TO BE HEARD ON THIS MATTER, NOT ONLY FOR MYSELF & MY FAMILY BUT ALSO FOR THE OTHER PEOPLE & THERE FAMILYS WHO HAVE TO PAY THESE OUTRAGEOUS COST JUST TO TALK TO THERE LOVE ONES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AN CONSIDERATION ON THIS MATTER. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU IN REGARDS TO THIS MATTER.

MR. WILLIAM P. JENKINS

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Sept. 21, 2012

Hi MONSTER,

I received both your letters and was glad to hear you are doing OK.

Well, As usual there's always something new when you're in there.

This collect call limit \$40.00 in 60 days is questionable. You need to get the guide lines for collect calls. GLOBAL TEL-LINK is forcing people to get pre-paid accounts to receive calls from the correctional facility. This does not seem to be legal. Many times you have had to call 2 or 3 times just to be able to hear the call. MAINTENANCE of their equipment is poor and the customer is forced to bear the expense. I'm <sup>not</sup> enclosing a couple of bills. I will not be held hostage by GLOBAL TEL-LINK

Since I don't need their pre-paid account. (A \$.45 cent stamp is much cheaper)

I have not heard from CAROL.

Everything else is OK. I'm enclosing a \$100.00 money order.

IF Linda is home when you call I'll speak with you and pay your part of her bill.

Love  
MA!!

10/11/12 Received & Inspected

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO THE OUTLANDISH PRICES I, AS A PRISONER, HAVE TO PAY TO USE THE PHONE. IT IS A HARDSHIP FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY. MY MOTHER IS ELDERLY AND ON A FIXED-INCOME. I ONLY MAKE \$4 PER DAY AS A YARD PORTER.

THE PRICE-GOUGING OF PRISONERS HAS TO STOP! I DON'T GET COST-OF-LIVING RAISES OR BONUSES TO KEEP UP WITH RISING PRICES.

PLEASE INVESTIGATE THIS PHONE EXTORTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! I CAN BARELY AFFORD TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MY MOTHER AND MY CHILDREN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

SINCERELY,

Rosemarie J. Dr Seain

\*197760 GB-20-U

WHV 3201 BEMIS ROAD

YASILANTI, MI 48197



Received & Inspected

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

TC. Whome it may concern.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the inmates in Women Huron Valley Complex in Michigan. PCS rates are extremely high for us. Some of us live on a fixed income and some have their whole family on the west coast which ~~cost~~ cost me 4\$ a call and live on a 50\$ a month income. I have to buy personals which runs me 45\$ a month. I try to stay in contact with my family and with PCS's Rates it makes it hard. It appears the fact that you allow us to buy phone cards but the rates are very high is there anyway to lower the rates please. Thank you for reading this.

Thank you.

Kari  
Bennett  
#718079

Dear, Chairman Genachowski

Sep 30 2012

Hello, I am writing in regards to our phone service, I have children at 3 separate residences and now I can only make 3 calls for a total of \$10.00 dollars. I live off my work pay which is \$40.00 dollars a month. I am being ripped off of having a relationship with my family & friends By the Grace of God can you help us prisoners with the new phone rates its outrageous, we are already paying for our crimes. ☹️ Thank you

Gina Bauman

764932

WNUCF  
3201 Bemis Rd

Ypsilanti MI 48197

Gina Bauman

Received & Inspected  
 OCT 11 2012  
 FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment  
 for the Wright Director  
 CC # 96-128

September 29, 2012

Received & Inspected

Dear Chairman Genachowski

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

When I first arrived to Woman's Huron Valley Complex, the phone rates averaged approximately \$1.50 for 15 minutes. This was a great thing because I could put \$10.00 of my inmate state pay on my phone account. I could make several calls and easily budget the time over a week or two span. My family could also attach several numbers to one account. With this new phone company they require a new account per number. With this new company I can only make 3-15 minute calls on \$6.00 of work pay. It is so much harder keeping in contact with my family, making calls out of my account. Please Chairman help get this bill passed for the lower rates. What little money each of us inmates receive, let it go further to ease our stresses and anxiety. Let us and our families not pay further!

Sincerely,  
Heather Godwin

Heather Godwin # 790584

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Received & Inspected

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

As the only completely blind female at Woman's Huron Valley Complex, it has been completely devastating to me, my family, and my friends with having the phone costs so high. My children get so upset because ~~they~~ they don't live together and I am not able to speak with each of them for a full 15 minutes due to high costs I am unable to listen to their troubles and be supportive as a mother should be. My family, friends, and I are being ripped off having a close relationship due to high phone rates. They live so far away to come and visit me, which is the case with most inmates. Having use of the phone is crucially important to everyone involved. We are already paying for our crimes, so why are ~~we~~ our loved ones suffering, too? Being blind makes it difficult to write and have the letters be legible to read. My close ones would rather hear my voice, as I would theirs. My daughter was hysterical over the tragic death of her pet cat. I could only comfort her for approximately 6 minutes and had to abruptly end the call. Please pass this bill to get lower phone rates, as it would benefit all of our loved ones and prisoners. Each inmate is already paying for his/her crime, don't make us pay further!

Sincerely,

*Marsha Springer*

Marsha Springer #760966

30<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The high costs of keeping in touch with my family gets higher every day. Costs go up but cost-of-living pay increases are non-existent in prison.

I make 84¢ a day, five days per week. Prices go up, but pay never does. There is no regulation of price gouging prisoners. Phone calls are vitally important and shouldn't be so expensive that we cannot call our families and friends. We have already been convicted and are serving our sentences, why are we being treated so inhumanely when it comes to talking to our families?

And why doesn't the FCC regulate, and fine heavily, the TV stations and affiliates that won't unscramble their closed captioning? I am deaf, and would appreciate being able to have the same privileges as hearing prisoners.

Why doesn't the FCC require all state and federal facilities to update the antiquated TTY to videophones? Let's bring communications for the deaf into the 21st century!

I appreciate your attention to my letter.  
I hope lower costs will be a reality  
soon.

The DOT has had an ongoing  
investigation of this facility since 2009.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. McDonnell  
#308105 GB-20-1  
444 3201 Bemis Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Chairman Genachowski,  
FCC  
Public Comments  
445 12th St. SW  
Wash. DC 20554

Sept 30, 2012

Received & Inspected

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

As a deaf woman in prison, I see the importance of maintaining open communications with family and friends. Costs of everything we need are skyrocketing - including phone costs. Our families and friends are forced to pay the costs in order to speak to us. When long distances are a factor, the phone is a lifeline to home.

Please bring costs down for prisoners. And please find out why we cannot have a videophone. The 4ty is slowly fading out as a modern communication tool.

Respectfully,  
Mary McBride  
# 712129

WHV  
3201 Bemis  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

30 Sept. 2012

Dear Chairman Jenschowski,

Received & Inspected

SEP 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

I am one of a growing population of deaf prisoners. We don't have access to phone cards to purchase. I cannot call my family with the TV because they are also deaf and have a videophone.

Staying in touch with family and friends is very important, especially for the deaf. Price gouging is very much part of the phone system here. We are all hostages to whatever prices that are put upon things we need. We are trapped and have to pay them in order to survive and stay in contact with our families and the deaf community.

Please, help all of us, and help to regulate prices we can afford.

Respectfully, #77582  
Linda Whata  
3201 Bemis Road  
Ypsilant, MI 48197  
Woman Huron Valley  
Corr. Fac. in prison



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PRISONER STATIONARY

TO:

NAME		
NO. AND STREET OR R.R.		
CITY	STATE	ZIP

FROM:

NAME RONI JACOBS	
NO. 322040	LOCK GB-31C
INSTITUTION WHVC	DATE 9-30-12

IN CORRESPONDENCE, USE NAME AND NUMBER ON YOUR LETTER AND ENVELOPE

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKY,

Received & Inspected

FCC  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
455 12th St SW  
WASH DC 20554

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

AS AN INMATE IN THE MICHIGAN DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS AND THE MOTHER OF THREE TEENAGE BOYS AS WELL AS WITH SEVERAL FRIENDS AND RELATIVES THAT WANT TO BE OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MY INCARCERATION, IT IS VERY HARD ON THE FINANCIAL STRAINS WITH THE COST OF TELEPHONE CALLS BEING THAT I MUST PAY FOR CALLS MADE ON MY END WITH THE BARRIER OF COLLECT CALLS BEING SO EXPENSIVE. AND THE FACT THAT I'M ALSO DEAF, I NEED ACCESS TO VIDEO PHONES FOR MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT HAVE VIDEO PHONES.

WE DON'T GET COST OF LIVING INCREASE IN PAY. I MAKE .84<sup>¢</sup> a day in pay. THEY NEED TO BRING THE COST OF TELEPHONE CALLS DOWN

SINCERELY -  
RONI JACOBS  
# 322040

Received & Inspected

6/11/2012

FCC Mail Room

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jaanna Glenn #807689, I am currently incarcerated at Huron Valley in Ypsilanti, Michigan. I am contacting you about the cost of the phone calls which is extremely too high. I am indigent, I live off of my work pay which is 40.00 a month. The cost of a 15 minute phone call is 3.50, I am only allowed to call home once a month because my children are in separate households. This high cost of phone calls is causing me to lose the bond that I once shared with my children. It's not fair that I have to choose between the necessities to survive in prison or whether to call and check on my kids.

This not only affect prisoners but the families of inmates as well. The institutions aren't raising the pay to inmates, so I along with others are requesting lower phone rates. For 10.00 I can only call each household where my children are once a month, I don't get visits so my phone calls are the only contact I have with them. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Jaanna Glenn  
#807689

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)

---

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comment  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to ask that you act on the WRIGHT petition to cap inmate telephone rates and stop the exploitation of prisoners and their loved ones.

I am serving time in the Michigan Department of Correction. Since coming to prison, I have tried to remain in close contact with my family and friends, but with each passing year it becomes more difficult. Despite publicly trumpeting the benefits of prisoners remaining in close contact with their families, the self serving policies and actions by the MDOC are continuing to tear at the very fabric of these bonds.

The two most important and critical ways for a prisoner to keep in contact with his family comes through visits and telephone calls. For most families, including mine, making the trip to visit is a rare occurrence. When you consider the bad economic times, and that most of these visitors themselves are struggling near the margins, the cost of making the trip to visit is prohibitive. Add to this that the MDOC has reduced the amount of days a prisoner can get visits, and restricted the number of visitors an inmate is allowed to see, it's not surprising to see the number of visits being reduced by 70%.

This leaves the telephone as the main lifeline for a majority of prisoners. Rather than making this critical service more convenient, the MDOC has chosen instead to exploit this service for profit. They, along with predatory telephone providers, have colluded to extort and target those who can least afford it. Of the average \$3.25 charged for a 15 minute call, \$2.50 goes directly into the pockets of the MDOC and telephone provider.

The MDOC claims it needs its share to shore up its budget. Prisoners and their families should not be charged outrageous rates to support prison budgets, that burden should be borne by the entire tax base. As for the telephone provider, they get a 30 % cut of the overcharge. Remember, the telephone provider has already built in their cost and profit margins for providing the actual telephone service. Public Communication Services is Michigan's current provider and they are making more money from administering this slush fund than they are from providing the actual inmate telephone service.

It seems one of the functions of our Federal Communications Commission is to protect the consumer from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then I don't know what would. Please put a stop to this. Cap the rates!

Sincerely,

Michael Gray

OCT 11 2012

FCC Mail Room

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

1 Oct. 2012

I'm writing to make you aware of the impact prison phone calls have had on my family and I.

In the State of Utah, all accounts must be established, pre-paid, through U-connect.

(UAC - Dept 2430  
P.O. Box 122430  
Dallas, TX. 75312) or 800.786.8521 (push 6 to speak to a rep.)  
www.myconnect.com

There is a \$25.00 minimum and a \$100.00 to \$200.00 maximum whose rates are \$3.45 to connect and .45¢ per minute and all calls are cut off at 30 minutes. It cost approx. \$16.95 to call home in Texas. which may not be entirely all that bad, however, payment is only accepted by creditcard and all interest rates and penalties apply.

Often times, in mid-sentence, calls are dropped 5 to 10 minutes into them and we have to re-connect.

Thank you and I hope this may in some way.

Respectfully,

Ricky Cunningham #167857

Ricky Cunningham