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13 July 2012

FCC Mail Room

William Jarvis, #125844
Blackwater River Correctional Fac.
5914 Jeff Ates Rd.
Milton, FL 32583

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Public Comments, Docket #96-128
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing to comment on Docket Number 96-128, the Wright Petition. I do not have the specifics of that petition, but I understand it concerns the ex fees charged to the families of incarcerated persons to make collect phone calls. I write to describe my personal experiences.

Several years ago, the Florida Department of Corrections renegotiated collect phone call rates with the service provider(s) so that a typical fifteen-minute call to another state costs (before taxes) a little less than three dollars. I am not complaining about such calls, they are not too bad.

In Jacksonville, FL, the Duval County Jail (the John E. Goode Pretrial Detention Facility) uses

a service provider that charges about \$20 for the same Florida-to-Texas phone call which only costs about \$2.75 from the state prison. Furthermore, the provider, Global Tel-Link (GTL), required my father to establish and maintain a pre-paid deposit for my "collect" calls to be charged against. He has had the same phone number for over 20 years, and has a very good credit history. And if that wasn't bad enough, GTL charges a \$3 "service charge" to his credit card in order to re-fill the pre-paid balance! (I think the rate per call was \$4.89 for the first minute, and \$0.89 for each additional minute, plus taxes.)

Yet this same phone-service provider (GTL), is who this prison facility uses, but at substantially more reasonable rates. (I believe the rate here is \$1.89 for the first minute, and \$0.04 for each additional minute, plus taxes.) I doubt GTL makes their service available at a financial loss!

How can Global Tel-Link justify charging only \$2.75 per phone call at one Florida institution, but \$20 at another?? It is likely because of the "sweet-heart deal" GTL has with the Duval County Jail for the excessive profits gathered on each interstate (and probably intrastate) call. As a "captive market," we users have very little recourse.

Please invoke rule(s) to roll back such profiteering on interstate collect calls by inmates in Jacksonville, FL.

William J. J. J.

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

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am a state prisoner in Pennsylvania that suffers from high costing telephone calls.

Pennsylvania has a policy to send inmates far away from their home region to discourage the potential flow of contraband through visits.

I can earn from 19¢ to 42¢ for prison labor minus 20% to be applied to fines and court costs per statute.

It is too costly for me to call my family and federal intercession is necessary in the interest of justice.

Neither my family nor I should suffer not being able to hear each other's voice because of a monopoly of profit against prisoners and their families.

Please take appropriate action in the WRIGHT decision to impose a law to limit excessive levies against my privilege to communicate with my family.

Thank you for your consideration and any action taken on my behalf.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Gregory Schneider

Pa. D.O.C. Inmate ID #GV-0559
SCI-Somerset
1600 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, Penna. 15510
(814) 443-8100

"This is a public comment for the
Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-125)."

July 12, 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

My name is Phinas Dear
I'm writing the letter to let you know
that the high cost of prison phone calls
are making it impossible to maintain contact
with my family. I'm from the Harrisburg
PA area, but I was sent to Albion State
Prison which is 5 1/2 hours away. Yes, 5 1/2
hours one way. My family doesn't have
transportation, so the only means of
contact is the phone and letters. I have
a 6 year old son and I can't afford
to keep in contact with because the high
cost of phone calls. It's another way we
hardship placed on a family. I'm not
attempting to say that I blame the phone
company for me being in prison, but that
the rate of phone calls makes it ~~so~~ hard
to maintain contact with my family.
I thought that the ~~phone~~ phone was to help
prisoner keep family contact and not to
prevent contact.

Sincerely, Trying to
Dial-out to my family.

Phinas Dear