

Monday,
9 - July - 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
455 12TH ST., SW
Washington, D.C., 20554

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Leon Williams # 372355
Marguerite Branch Prison
1960 U.S. 41 South
Marguerite, Michigan, 49855

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

I've been incarcerated in the "Michigan Dept. of Corrections," for nearly 12 yrs... During this time, & still to date, our phone rates are extremely unreasonable.

In many cases, we are very far away from our loved ones. So, we rely on the phone to stay in touch with our families, & in touch with society. (As, distance visits prove to be a financial burden, & stressful event.)

Our rehabilitation is strongly dependent upon our relationships with our families (support teams).

Communication is key in all relationships... & The phone system is our best line of communication.

Not only do we use the phones to stay in touch, we use them to get things in order upon our release. (Jobs, housing, & etc.). In prison the phone keeps

Many out of trouble, brings smiles, & gives us hope.

There is no rehabilitation without family & society contact... With these high phone rates, it's hard to stay in touch. & It's extremely frustrating.

Here in Michigan, I earn \$13¹ a day - less than \$30⁰⁰ a month. I love my family, & I want to talk to them as much as possible... But with my pay-rate, & the high phone rates. It's impossible for me to get everything ~~in~~ I need in prison, & stay in touch with my love ones.

One 15 min. phone call in Michigan is as high as a gallon of gas. & Is almost half of the hourly rate for ~~the~~ minimum wage... & We make nothing near minimum wage here in Michigan.

I guess, in writing this letter... I'm hoping & praying that somehow our phone rates can get back to a reasonable rate.

Please & Thank you.



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

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Alvin Lee Workman 0081216

ASP 406 North High Street

Anamosa, Iowa 52205-1157

July 9th 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski;

I am an inmate at the Anamosa State Penitentiary and I am writing this letter in support of the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

As an inmate, I and my family are being gouged with outrageous connection fee and per minute rates. I say my family as they are the ones who usually place the money on my telephone account.

In Iowa, all inmates must make calls using the state owned telephone system. We are charged a \$2.30 connection fee for all in-state calls plus a per minute rate from 19¢ to 28¢ per minute, depending on the area code you are calling.

When placing a call out-of-state, you are charged a \$3.00 connection fee and 25¢ and up per minute. All calls are for 20 minutes.

I am hoping that this letter will prompt your commission to make the State of Iowa lower both the connection fee and per minute costs for all inmates.

Thank you for your time and attention to this support letter.

Sincerely,



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

Keith Robert Brown # 1140838-1A-15

ASP 406 North High Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-1157

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

July 6th 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski;

I am an inmate at the Anamosa State Penitentiary and I am writing this letter in support of the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

As an inmate, I and my family are being gouged with outrageous connection fee and per minute rates. I say my family as they are the ones who usually place the money on my telephone account.

In Iowa, all inmates must make calls using the state owned telephone system. We are charged a \$2.00 connection fee for all in-state calls plus a per minute rate from 19¢ to 28¢ per minute, depending on the area code you are calling.

When placing a call out-of-state, you are charged a \$3.00 connection fee and 25¢ and up per minute. All calls are for 20 minutes.

I am hoping that this letter will prompt your commission to make the State of Iowa lower both the connection fee and per minute costs for all inmates.

Thank you for your time and attention to this support letter.

Sincerely,

Keith Robert Brown

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

Collins Straight #6803319

ASP 406 North High Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-1157

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

July, 6 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski;

I am an inmate at the Anamosa State Penitentiary and I am writing this letter in support of the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

As an inmate, I and my family are being gouged with outrageous connection fee and per minute rates. I say my family as they are the ones who usually place the money on my telephone account.

In Iowa, all inmates must make calls using the state owned telephone system. We are charged a \$2.00 connection fee for all in-state calls plus a per minute rate from 19¢ to 28¢ per minute, depending on the area code you are calling.

When placing a call out-of-state, you are charged a \$3.00 connection fee and 25¢ and up per minute. All calls are for 20 minutes.

I am hoping that this letter will prompt your commission to make the State of Iowa lower both the connection fee and per minute costs for all inmates.

Thank you for your time and attention to this support letter.

Sincerely,

Collins Straight

Matthew T. Osborne, #157390
Carson City Correctional Facility
10274 Boyer Road
Carson City, Michigan 48811

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20544

RE: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition" (cc Docket #96-1280)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am ~~happy~~ you are taking the time to read this letter. The high cost of phone calls in Michigan is outrageous. For me, I went from paying \$1.50 per call to \$4.00 a call; almost tripling my cost and the cost to my family.

Both my Mother and Step-Dad are retired and collect social security. I cannot afford to put money on the phone with my prison wages. At one time I could call my Mom several times a week, which is important because my Step-Dad has dementia. Now I am only able to afford to call my Mom a few times every couple of months. It is a strain on our relationship because she spends all of her time taking care of my Step-Dad. As a result, even though I can write to her, she doesn't have the time to write me. Phone calls are our only way of truly staying in touch.

I am not sure what the phone calls are like in other states but in Michigan, through our carrier Public Communications Service (PCS), I am charged a state and federal tax because I make interstate calls. I am also charged a state sales tax and a State Universal Fund Fee plus a Federal Universal Fund Fee and a Regulatory Wireline Fee.

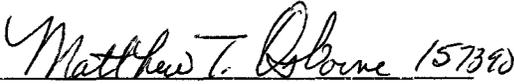
For a debit interstate call (debit is sold at the facility) I am charged a 'floating tax'. For a debit interstate call the 'low' tax rate is 21.6% and the 'high' tax rate is 22.2%. The base rate per minute for an interstate call is \$0.21 a minute so the base charge for a 15 minute call is \$3.15. This makes the total cost of a 15 minute call with the lowest tax rate \$3.83, and with the highest tax rate that same call costs \$3.85.

As a part of this phone contract, PCS includes a "Special Equipment Fund" charge that is to be used to purchase and implement equipment that will detect contraband cell phones. PCS is also being paid 30% of all special equipment fund revenues to manage those phones. It should be noted that the only real 'special equipment' that we have seen are tazers and the rumor that more security cameras will be installed. I thought tazers, cameras, etc were to be paid for with the tax dollars allocated to the MDOC in their budget and not from inmate phone calls.

Our previous phone provider EMBARQ included all the necessary taxes in the base rate they charged and their calls only cost us a total of \$1.50 per 15 minute phone call. The only difference between our phone calls with EMBARQ and PCS are the additional taxes and special equipment fund fee PCS has tacked on.

In short, due to greed and double or triple taxing, the relationship with my family and friends will suffer with this new phone contract. No one seems to care except for inmates and those that wish to maintain contact with them. I ask that you intercede on our behalf. Your time and consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


Matthew T. Osborne, #157390

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

Dear Chairman Grenachowski:

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

My name is James D. Lenoir, and I would like to share my story with you. I am currently serving 45 years in Menard Correction Center in Illinois. I have a 10 year old son, and four nephews that I try my best to stay apart of they life regardless of my situation. And the only way I can real do that is by calling them, so they can feel comfortable talking with me about the things they are going thur. And be able to interact with them to share my mistakes with them to try and keep them out of trouble. I come from a low-income family on the westside of chicago, I have been lock-up since I was eighteen years old.

Consolidation is the phone company that have the contract for Illinois prison phone and county jail. Trying to call home from menard prison the rates contiune to change and they use tactic that, cause inmates to use more money from they phone accounts. By allowing your family to accept your calls which the first minute is \$2.20 to \$2.50, and .26¢ to .28¢ for each minutes after. The phone call suppose to last 30 minutes, but 7 to 12 minutes into your call it will hang up for no reason. And inmates will call back again, so again the first minute charge will be deducted from your account. A full call last 30 minutes which is \$10 dollars, if you call home twice a week its 80 to a 100 dollars a month, which for a year \$1,060⁰⁰. This price is subjected to change at any time. I am paying the price for my crime, yet in order to stay in-touch with my family and son. My family have to make the choice on which bill they can only pay a little bit without it getting cut off. In a world that cell phone company's is offering unlimited minutes for \$30 dollars a month, prison etcells are 3 to 4 times that for only a fraction of the time.

I pray that your office look into this matter with real concern, because its not right how we as inmates are being targeted and its a injustice to the families of inmates.

Respectfully

James D. Lenoir 7-7-12

7-2-12

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

FOR THE Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN MY NAME IS MARVIN O COBB # 09419-076
I'M A INMATE IN FORREST CITY-LOW PO BOX 9000 FORREST CITY
ARK.72336

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWISKI..

I'M WRITING THIS LETTER IN REGARDS TO THE HIGH COST OF MY
PHONE CALLS FROM PRISON TO MY FAMILY MY PHONE CALLS COST ME
THREE DOLLARS AND FORTY FIVE CENTS PER CALL AND I'VE BEEN
LOCKED UP SINCE MARCH 3rd 2005 IT COST ME \$828.00 PER YEAR
MULTIPLIED BY SEVEN EQUALS 5,796.00 DOLLARS AND THIS IS NOT
THE END OF MY SENTENCE.I STILL HAVE UNTIL THE YEAR 2021 NOW
THAT REALLY RIDICULOUS FOR A PERSON TO HAVE PAY AND GO THROUGH
TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN THIS
MATTER SINCERELY.. MARVIN O COBB #09419-076 YOUR RESPONSE TO
THIS CONCERN WOULD TRULY BE APPRECIATED...

Chairman Julius Genachowski
F.C.C. (Public Comments)
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

re: Public Comments For The Wright Petition

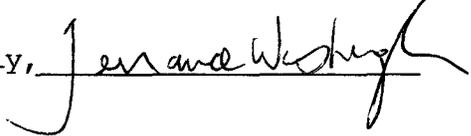
(CC Docket # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing this letter in relation to the "Wright Petition"! I feel it is imperative that the FCC know that the ^{prison} telephone rate is sky-high, exorbitant and oppressive! Particularly in Pennsylvania, it cost over \$6.00 to make one 15 minute in-state phone call! It cost over double that for an out-of-state 15-minute phone call! The Pennsylvania D.O.C. gets up to six million dollars in kickback commissions from the telephone contract that results in these exorbitant telephone rates charged prisoners and our families! These prices greatly hinders/^{prevents} me from being able to adequately communicate with my family/loved ones! There's no way I can properly stay in touch with such high telephone costs! And getting in touch with out-of-state family members is totally out of the question! The lack of communication causes my family/loved ones to worry about me and whether I'm alright and vice-versa! Pennsylvania also has another underhanded extortion telephone practice of blocking me (and similarly situated prisoners) from calling family members that have collect calling features on their telephone if the outside family member doesn't have the same telephone carrier as the prison contract, thereby they don't get any kickback fees! Even if my family has collect calling, the prison will block me from calling that family member and will give me a 1-800 number to have my family call and set up a separate account apart from the company/collect ^{calling} they already have! So it's as though my family is paying twice over in order to talk to me. They don't care that the family member already has collect calling! They demand

next page →

a separate account be set up so that more money can go into the DOC coffers and the telephone company contract they have in place (kickback commission)! This further hinders/prevents family communication. These abusive practices and the abusive costs of phone calls must be addressed. I am hereby requesting that the FCC look into these actions/practices and take whatever action it deems necessary/prudent to address this drastic issue! Thanking You In Advance!

Respectfully, 

July 9, 2012

"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

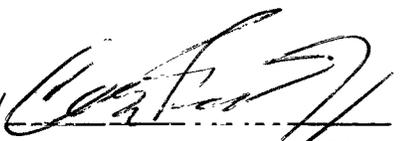
JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Genachowski,

I am a Pennsylvania prisoner and I read the article concerning the High cost of phone prices and I too am experiencing this problem along with others. we are currently paying about \$5.60 per call in the state and the only way to get those cost down is to have our families purchase disposable cell phones locally with local numbers with a an amount of discretion, if the facility suspects that if we are doing this our phone privileges are suspended and we are issued a DC 141 (write up) and are being punished for circumventing the system. My mother is in Florida and my wife is in Reading Pennsylvania to make those calls it is very expensive. If I wanted to call my mother it cost me over \$10.00 and these prices are not dependent if I call collect or if I call with my calling card which I have to purchase through the institution in denominations of 10, 15, 25, 50 plus tax. I know that the cost of these phone calls shouldn't be that high before I came to the state prison I paid \$1.12 in the county prison for 20 minutes through ITT, I was also transferred to Michigan for a brief period due to overcrowding and during my stay there I only paid \$1.58 per 20 minute call and those facilities were through a different company as well. I would like to know if there is anything that I can provide besides testimony from myself or my family to help this situation out so that we can all overcome this theft of monies from indigent prisoners and our families. I have forwarded this information to my family members and I will have them send you there versions and testimony of how hard this phone problems has impacted our family. I thank you for your time and for leading the fight against this oppression.

Thankfully,

S/ 
Cesar Fernandez Jr. GY3683
1600 Walters Mill Rd.
SCI Somerset
Somerset Pa. 15510

-1-

Received and Accepted

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room July 10, 2012

Dear Chairman Benachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 06-128)

My name and resident, Willie Ballé #A-61541, Pontiac C.C.

Yes, I certainly do have very big concerns about the prison phone calls communication system. I've been incarcerated some 24 plus years.

One way that I and family and friends stay maintain in contact on a daily basis is by t-phone. Also, to mention my family and friends is a huge support to my dignity, esteem, humanity, etc. etc. They are the reason why I am still alive to this day. Without them being there with their encouraging words helping to maintain my faith in God and possibly being a free man once again one day. Without any of this

4

I believe by now I would have committed suicide.

Having to live in a maximum institution because of a natural life sentence. Now-days the max. institutions does not allow reform/rehabilitation programs. There being very few fellow inmates whom one can confide in. So I'm compelled daily to stay in contact by t-phone with family and friends.

Unfortunately, with the economy on its way down and people are losing their jobs. The cost of living skyrocking constantly. Yes, it is taking its toll on my family & friends. They struggle very hard in allowing me to call them. Of course, there have been times that I have called only to hear the phone service say, "we're sorry your per payed account is only a dollar or less and not enough to complete this call," etc., etc., etc."

There is a strong possibility that I may spend the rest of my life in the penitentiary. If this is the case or a fact, please, I would be

Very grateful to (FCC) in their efforts taking action to make things a little better and much more affordable.

Please, be assured that my voice not only speak in behalf of my love ones, but also for so many, many others who might can't read and write!

May God bless your efforts!

Thank You!

Respectfully
Willie Baller

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

Kim Archer 1099548

ASP 406 North High Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-1157

July 8 2012

Received & Inspected
JUL 16 2012
FCC Mail Room

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski;

I am an inmate at the Anamosa State Penitentiary and I am writing this letter in support of the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

As an inmate, I and my family are being gouged with outrageous connection fee and per minute rates. I say my family as they are the ones who usually place the money on my telephone account.

In Iowa, all inmates must make calls using the state owned telephone system. We are charged a \$2.00 connection fee for all in-state calls plus a per minute rate from 19¢ to 28¢ per minute, depending on the area code you are calling.

When placing a call out-of-state, you are charged a \$3.00 connection fee and 25¢ and up per minute. All calls are for 20 minutes.

I am hoping that this letter will prompt your commission to make the State of Iowa lower both the connection fee and per minute costs for all inmates.

Thank you for your time and attention to this support letter.

Sincerely,

Kim Archer

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment #171
The Wright petition CC-Docket #06-138

Dear Chairman Genachowski

my name is Heather
Bunn and I have almost

16 years of experience with

the prison phone system. I

am currently housed at the

Ohio Reformatory for women

and the phone system we are

under (global tel) is horrific.

not only are they expensive

and take advantage of

our situation - they make

it very difficult for us.

To send cell our families

I would like to share

examples with you on

both issues.

#1. High cost: It is

approx. \$17.00 a call for

out of state. I have

people in west virginia

I have only called once

because \$ is no expense

②

and also even if I "pre-pay" for the call here it still cost them in minutes. Same goes for my friends/family in state who only have cell phones. It cost both sides.

most calls in state cost me between \$4.29 - \$4.95 for a 15-min call. and I have to buy the phone time on my card which leads me to the second difficulty.

#2 most phone companies won't work with Global Tel. MCI Put a block on my cousin's phone (her bill was paid!) Embark actually limited me to 4 calls a month to my mother. And Time Warner doesn't allow

collect calls At All , Along with Cell phones.

So while Rehabilitation calls for family contact and support, the Phone system in the prisons do not. They are far to expensive for a 75 yr old woman on a fixed income to send me money and there's times when many of us live on \$15-\$19 a month.

The expense & difficulty of the Prison Phone system is not only ridiculous, it's morally wrong, yes we are being punished but it isn't ~~right~~ right that our support systems become out of reach, when you're doing 23-lye like me with no visits, a phone call is Everything. Thank you for your time

Heather Bunn
40440 LINCOLN
1479 COLLINS AVE
MARVSVILLE OH 43040