

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

Clifford Powers IDOC No. M05859  
Stateville Correctional Center  
P.O. Box 112  
Joliet, IL 60434

This is a public comment for  
The Wright Petition CC Docket 96-128

Received & Inspected

JUL 02 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

2000F

FCC Mail Room

My name is Clifford Powers; I'm currently incarcerated in Stateville Correctional Center, in Joliet, Illinois. I have been here for three years after spending nearly the same amount of time in the county jail in Lake County. The majority of my family live between two and eight hours away from here so visits are few and far between, especially as the economy only worsens.

In order to have contact with my family I am forced to use the prison mail system, which has proven wholly unreliable, or use the prison phone system, which has proven wholly unaffordable. While in the county jail I was able to call friends and family when I needed to, which was not often due to the close proximity. Now that I am in prison the cost to call my nearest family members has doubled, effectively cutting off my contact with all but my father. At the current rate it costs my father approximately \$7 to accept a call from me for half an hour.

He sacrifices so that I may have some contact with someone on the outside. My mother, siblings, and other relatives cannot afford to give me this luxury. If my father were to use three-way calling to call one of them so that I could talk to them I would be put in administrative segregation and lose a number of privileges, including use of a phone. I used to call my grandmother in Tennessee once a month to check on her but am no longer able to do even that because she cannot afford the \$20+ phone call on her public assistance income.

The monopoly the phone companies hold over us prisoners is atrocious. Contact with family and friends does great things for the psychological welfare of prisoners, but more it helps relieve some of the stress weighing down on our loved ones who must live with the burden of worrying about their brother, sister, husband,

C. Powers

wife, etc.

Chairman Genachowski, I ask that you take notice of our call for help. Something must be done, and you are in a position to right this wrong. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

  
Clifford Powers

6/25/2012

C. Powers

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

Chadwick Wallace IDOC No. S-05266  
Stateville Correctional Center  
Box 112  
Joliet, IL 60434

Received & Inspected

This is a public comment for  
The Wright Petition CC Docket 96-128

JUL 02 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Hello, my name is Chadwick Wallace, and I am incarcerated in Stateville Correctional Center in the state of Illinois.

I am writing you in regards to the high cost of phone calls from prison. My family lives in Alton, IL which is 250+ miles away from my facility, which is located in Joliet, IL. It costs over \$10.00 for me to make one phone call home, and due to financial hardship, I do not get to call home much these days. People I've talked to in here whose families live closer to this facility tell me they pay less per call, \$6 or \$7.00, which is still outrageous in my opinion.

I feel that the phone company Stateville contracts with, a Mattoon, IL based company called "Consolidated" capitilizes on the fact that 80% of IDOC Prisoners are from Chicago and it's surrounding areas, and are incarcerated in facilities that are primarily located in the mid to southern regions of the state, which means the vast majority of calls made on their network will be long distance, which they charge an exhorbitant amount for.

To my understanding, Consolidated holds most of the contracts for prison phone systems in this state, and the collect calls funnel and endless source of money into their pockets, as phones are the only source of real communication for those of us who are forced to live in a prison so far from home.

Being over 200 miles away from home, my friends and family can't make the trip very often, the same holds true for those from the northern region of the state being housed in the southern prisons, especially in the current economy. Even the phone calls have become too expensive.

The entire month of June, I have spoke to my mother a full 60 seconds. That is the length of the one time courtesy call that Conslidated gives when your bill is overdue.

Out of state phone calls are a perplexing issue of their own. For some reason it's cheaper for me to call my Grandparents who live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I'm unsure just how much cheaper but the difference is significant compared to calling home in my own state. However, with them being retired, and on a fixed income they can hardly afford the calls, despite the price difference.

The whole phone operation in general amounts to treachery. It's a vampiric entity that feeds on the pocket books of the loved ones who support their imprisoned family and friends. We're forced to feed this beast at the expense of our loved ones livelihood, our only other option is a prison mail system that has time and time again proven to be wholly unreliable, and slower than molasses dripping from a flap-jack (at no fault of the U.S. Postal Service).

Chairman Genachowski, I appreciate your time in reading my letter, and pray that you can be of some help in this matter, if not for us prisoners, then for the families that love and believe in us. Thank you .

Respectfully,

Chadwick Wallace  
IDOC No. S-05266  
Stateville Correctional Center  
Box 112  
Joliet, IL 60434

  
6/25/2012