

Scott Nelson
3128 Pacific Coast Hwy #18
Torrance, CA 90505

December 17, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Wright Alternative Rulemaking Proposal
C.C. Docket 96-128; DA 03-4027

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I live in Torrance, California where I receive collect calls from friends who are in the Los Angeles County Jail. Currently I pay \$4.94 for a 15 minute call. Others living out-of-state who receive collect calls from the county jail facilities are charged up to \$17.31 for a 15 minute call.

The costs of these calls create a very real problem not only for me, but especially for those others subjected to the interstate calling rates. The exorbitant rates charged for these calls add up to significant totals each month, money that in these tough financial times may be needed for other expenses and commitments.

The primary reason this rate is so high is because of the commissions paid by prison and jail phone service providers to correctional facilities. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department currently collects a 52% commission on all prisoner calls placed from their facilities, and are looking to increase that percentage during the upcoming contract renegotiations with the phone service provider. In fact, the Sheriff's top reason for awarding the phone contract is the amount of commission they can "squeeze" out of the provider, while quality of service and other normally important issues are ranked lower on their list of considerations.

I believe these commissions are an unfair tax on friends and families of prisoners, including many who cannot afford these excessive rates. It is my understanding that a recent cost study submitted by prison phone service companies has determined a "fair rate" that eliminates commissions, covers legitimate costs and provides a reasonable return for prison phone companies while dramatically reducing call rates.

My hope is that the FCC will prohibit the payment of commissions and establish a "fair rate" for all intrastate and interstate calls, as well as require less expensive prepaid or debit calling in all correctional facilities. The recent studies have shown that prepaid and debit calling can be easily accomplished while still preserving the important security requirements of correctional facilities.

Please make sure fair rates will be made available to me and all other friends and families of prisoners everywhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Scott Nelson