

March 8, 2013

FCC Proposal

The Wright Petition - The Right Time

Hello World!

As a long term inmate I have watched as my family's meager coffers have been sucked dry by telephone monopolies. Therefore, I support the Wright Petition, heart, soul, and pocketbook. As one convicted of a crime I understand and accept my punishment, what I have never understood is the exorbitant fees family members are forced to pay to speak with me on the telephone. Any regulation that aims to bring this vital service in line with free peoples bills will only serve the greater good.

It is widely known and accepted as fact that inmates who are able to keep or create close ties to family and friends are far less likely to re-offend. This should be promoted.

To speak to an inmate in a California prison, families have to pre-pay for all telephone calls. Global Tel-Link (GTL), the phone provider never loses revenue for its service. Also, GTL is likely earning additional revenue through interest from holding tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars not yet spent by its users.

Why then does GTL believe it has to gouge

(2)

its customers who have no alternative. GTL is by definition a monopoly and must be regulated by the FCC because no market forces apply to ensure competitive rates,

There are many sections within the Wright Proposal, but I will only briefly address three: 1) the Per-Call Charge; 2) the Per-Minute Rate Cap; and 3) the Intra-Interstate Parity.

1) It is reasonable for a phone service provider to charge a 'Hook-up' fee for phone durations of 5 minutes or less. However, it should not be more than \$1.50; but,

2) the Per-Minute fee should be absorbed into the Per-Call (Hook-up) Charge for phone durations beyond 5 minutes. The proposed 20¢ per minute (pre-paid) fee is reasonable only if there is no hook-up charge or it is included within it.

3) I admit I have not been in the World for many years, so I could be wrong, but I have watched many telephone commercials where the companies offer unlimited service where the rates are the same for local and long distance. I don't believe it is unreasonable to expect the same competitive service

3

be offered to inmates and their families, whether I call in or out of state the rate should be the same.

In closing, my family and I are extremely grateful to the FCC Commission for considering the Wright Petition. We implore you to adopt the parts that would be best for society as a whole and that would represent the competitive marketplace.

Thank you for asking my opinion.

Cordially,

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Novel: A Thundering Wind
Journal: A Year in a Life Sentence
(Amazon.com)