

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0912

February 2, 2015

Received & Inspected
FEB 09 2015
FCC Mail Room

- WASHINGTON OFFICE:
- ☐ 2313 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-5755
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- ☐ 7132 LITTLE ROAD
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654-5514
(727) 232-2921
- ☐ 5901 ARGERIAN DRIVE
SUITE 102
WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33545-4220
(813) 501-4942
- ☐ 600 KLOSTERMAN ROAD
ROOM BB38
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-1299
(727) 940-5860
- ☐ 36739 STATE ROAD 52
SUITE 212
DADE CITY, FL 33525-1299
(866) 773-2871

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services - Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WC Docket No. 12-375)

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing because it is apparent that the FCC's *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services* (ICS) (WC Docket No. 12-375), issued on October 22, 2014, has the potential to adversely impact the performance of Sheriffs' duties across the country.

I am greatly concerned that the FCC is considering low rate caps that may limit the ability of ICS providers to recover costs of administering services in smaller, higher cost facilities. Jail sizes vary greatly and each jail must consider their budgets in vastly different ways than prisons. If the FCC implements a "one-size-fits-all" approach to ICS, many jails may be forced to severely limit or altogether eliminate inmate telephone privileges. In addition, low rate caps and no means for cost recovery would prohibit jails from properly securing and monitoring ICS, which is a valuable tool for law enforcement information gathering and security.

Jails should be allowed to recover these costs in order to secure their jail and prevent future crimes and mitigate the harassment of victims and witnesses. There are alternatives to solve this issue in a more tailored fashion than the "one-size-fits-all" approach, such as more reasonable caps on interstate rates or differing rates for large jails and small prisons. I hope the FCC takes a more tailored approach to Interstate Inmate Calling Services going forward.

Because of the potential impact this may have on Sheriffs not only in Florida, but across the country, I would greatly appreciate that further updates on this issue be sent to my office.

Sincerely,



GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

WWW.BILIRAKIS.HOUSE.GOV

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER