

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2015

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Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

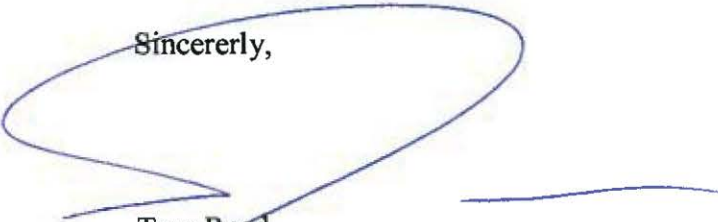
I write today regarding the request for comment, WC Docket No. 12-375, from the Federal Communications Commission under the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Inmate Calling Services. This proposal has been brought to my attention by county correctional facilities within my Congressional District.

The Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Inmate Calling Services involves a proposal that would include the current rates set for federal interstate calls being further extended to override current state regulated intrastate calls. Currently, the funds collected by local jails are used for the monitoring of inmate calls to prevent further crime and better address safety concerns to protect inmates. The monitoring of calls also provides important information for our local offices to be able to prosecute criminals and acquit those who are innocent. The loss of funding would create serious safety concerns for our inmates, corrections officers and our community as a whole.

The Commission currently cites Sections 276 and 201(b) of the Communications Act of 1996 as their legal authority to regulate site commissions and intrastate calls; however, the law does not provide conclusive language that would allow the federal government to override current state authority. If the Federal Communications Commission does begin implementation of these proposals, I am concerned this would be overstepping federal authority provided under the existing law.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to review the language of the Federal Communications Act and the effect these changes could have on our local communities. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Tom Reed
Member of Congress