



September 6, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b) in CC Docket 96-128 and BO Docket No. 12-30

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 4, 2012, the following individuals met with FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and his staff, Michael Steffen, as well as Wireline Bureau Chief Julie Veatch: Wade Henderson, President and CEO, Corrine Yu, Managing Policy Director, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Kay Perry, Director, Equitable Telephone Charges Campaign, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE); Lee Petro, Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP, pro bono counsel for Martha Wright, *et al.*; amalia deloney, Associate Director, Center for Media Justice Matt Wood, Policy Director, Free Press; Madura Wijewardena, Director of Research & Policy, National Urban League; Lisa Navarrete, Vice President, National Council of La Raza; Sherwin Siy, Vice President of Legal Affairs, Public Knowledge; Bonnie Grabenhofer, Executive Vice President, National Organization for Women; Cheryl Leanza, Advisor, The Leadership Conference and United Church of Christ, OC Inc.

Mr. Henderson expressed his gratitude for the meeting and the strong concern of the civil rights community regarding the astronomical rates for telephone calls to and from prison. Mr. Henderson emphasized the important opportunity of the Federal Communications Commission to assist the Obama administration's efforts to combat recidivism. He highlighted the extraordinary meeting of minds between progressive and conservative leaders in the letter to Chairman Genachowski last May. Mr. Henderson told the Chairman that the large coalition's goal was to get action at the FCC by the tenth anniversary of the original Wright petition—in March 2013. In order to make this date, Mr. Henderson emphasized that a notice of proposed rulemaking is necessary no later than mid-October.

Ms. Perry explained that Citizens United to Reform Errants (CURE) and their lawyers and allies have been working on this issue for more than a decade. They have provided a wide range of detailed pleadings and arguments in the docket and engaged thousands of people over the years and many more in the recent months. They are expecting progress and a message from the FCC: they deserve a clear date by which they can expect action.

Mr. Henderson explained that the groups present had met with all the other Commissioners who all see the merit in this issue, and are waiting to see what the Chairman will do and whether they will have a draft order to review. Mr. Henderson explained that it is simple common sense and a matter of public safety to ensure that prisoners are successful members of society when they are released.

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Mr. Petro emphasized the need of his client, Martha Wright. She is blind and elderly. Her grandson is in prison and has been transferred all over the west, from Lorton in the DC area to Ohio to New Mexico to Arizona. She is disabled and cannot travel to see him. He stressed that his client has been waiting many years and that the FCC's failure to publish in the Federal Register Ms. Wright's alternate proposal has caused an additional procedural delay at this time. He also explained how a number of states around the country have already worked to reform their rates, and that others are working on the issue now. The FCC must act on federal, interstate rates, which will help with long distance charges and will also provide a roadmap for states that have not yet acted.

In response to the Chairman's expression of interest in moving ahead, Mr. Henderson promised the aid and collaboration of the parties present. Further, Ms. Leanza and Ms. Deloney expressed the groups' intent to continue to raise this issue in the minds of the public. Ms. Deloney described current efforts to use the mass media, including a social action campaign tied to the upcoming release of a major motion picture, to aid in the public's understanding and activism on this issue.

Mr. Henderson then turned to another topic. He expressed his support for the current studies that have been initiated to analyze the information needs of communities. He stressed that he believes every agency has a duty to continue to find ways to serve underserved communities, particularly since the Supreme Court's *Adarand* decision. The need for data is tremendously important with the constant attacks on any policy that could be attacked as affirmative action. Mr. Henderson asked the Chairman to dedicate sufficient funds to complete the current study.

All those present expressed their appreciation to the Chairman and his staff and expressed their intent to follow up with more particularity on the timing of action in the above-captioned dockets.

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ, OC Inc. and The Leadership Conference Education Fund

cc: Michael Steffen
Julie Veatch
Patrick Healy
Deena Shetler