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June 7, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Via Electronic Filing*

**Re: WC Docket No. 12-375, Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services**

Dr. Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of the Wright Petitioners, Free Press, Public Knowledge, the United Church of Christ, Office of Communication, Inc., and Securus Technologies, we are writing to report that on May 29, 2013, representatives from public interest groups, as well as counsel for The Wright Petitioners, convened with Dennis Reinhold, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Securus, along with outside counsel for Securus, regarding the above captioned proceeding. We discussed rates, cost structures, and the unique competitive challenges presented by the inmate telecommunications market.

At this time, the parties are unable to agree on an appropriate per-minute rate for ICS calls. However, the parties do agree that certain practices, which serve to artificially inflate the cost of prison phone calls, are egregious and should be eliminated. For example, both Securus and the public interest groups recognize that refund fees for prepaid calling accounts are restrictive and unwarranted. In some instances, providers may charge inmates' families up to \$10 to recoup unused deposits, and we all agree that such refund fees are not in the public interest and should be eliminated.<sup>1</sup> Refund fees are partly to blame for 15-minute calls resulting in charges upward of \$30 by certain providers. Hence, eliminating these fees is a step in the right direction toward making ICS calls more affordable for inmates and their loved ones. All parties agreed that the cost of a 15-minute call should be lower than \$17, and all parties agreed to continue a constructive dialogue with concrete next steps leading to charges for interstate calling services that are fair, non-predatory, and reasonable, taking into account all perspectives.

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<sup>1</sup> See Drew Kukorowski, Prison Policy Initiative, *Please Deposit All of Your Money: Kickbacks, Rates, and Hidden Fees in the Jail Phone Industry* (May 2013).

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/

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/s/

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