



## American Jail Association

1135 Professional Court  
Hagerstown, MD 21740-5853  
Telephone: (301) 790-3930  
FAX: (301) 790-2941

*Jim Hart, CJM, CCE*  
President  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

August 9, 2007

*Jon Hess, CJM*  
President-Elect  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Honorable Trent Lott  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Robert Lucas, CJM*  
1st Vice President  
Tampa, Florida

Dear Senator Lott,

*Bobbi Luna*  
2nd Vice President  
Portland, Oregon

On behalf of the American Jail Association, I am writing to express our opposition to a Senate companion bill to the Family Telephone Connection Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 555). The American Jail Association represents jails and jail practitioners across the United States. We believe this legislation would seriously undermine our ability to manage and maintain our inmate phone systems, a key inmate service. Additionally, as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers an alternative proposal patterned after H.R. 555, we urge you to express your concern and opposition to the FCC to the proposed changes to inmate telephone systems.

*Frank Hecht*  
3rd Vice President  
Sells, Arizona

*Michael A. Sisneros, CJM*  
Secretary  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Su Cunningham*  
Treasurer  
Round Rock, Texas

*Joseph W. Oxley, CJM*  
Immediate Past President  
Freehold, New Jersey

We join the National Sheriffs' Association in opposition to H.R. 555. Jails across our nation contract with private carriers for inmate phone services. Working with a single carrier to monitor and control inmate calling allows us to, ensure access for all inmates, support inmates' continued communications with friends and family during their incarceration, and prevent unwanted/unauthorized calls, while providing a tool in criminal investigations.

*Gwyn Smith-Ingley*  
Executive Director  
Hagerstown, Maryland

H.R. 555, and the alternative proposal being considered by the FCC would amount to nothing less than the complete dismantling of these systems. Carrier choice, as proposed, undermines our ability to control, monitor and track inmate calls, and would increase the opportunity for criminal activity and fraud in our jails.

In addition, we strongly oppose prohibiting the payment of commissions by providers of inmate telephone service to our jails.

**Future Conference Site**  
Sacramento, California • May 4 – 8, 2008

E-Mail: [jails@aja.org](mailto:jails@aja.org) • Web Site: [www.aja.org](http://www.aja.org)

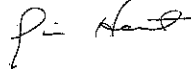
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Many jails deposit these commissions directly in inmate welfare funds and support inmate programming in areas such as basic adult education, job skills, substance abuse and parenting. Without these commissions, in many instances, these services would simply no longer be available.

The American Jail Association believes that decisions about services and programs provided in our jails, including telephone services, should be made in accordance with the Correctional goals, standards and policies of each state and local jurisdiction. As such, we are strongly opposed to the proposed legislation, along with any rule change by the FCC that mirrors this legislation, as it would dismantle existing inmate phone services, hampering our ability to provide a balanced system that encourages frequent inmate calling at fair rates, while allowing for effective control and protection from criminal abuse.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or our Executive Director, Gwyn Smith-Ingley.

Sincerely,



Jim Hart, CJM, CCE  
President