

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Colin <Colinstaub@sprintmail.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 9:59pm
Subject: FCC Universal Service Plan

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Rachelle Chong,

I'm sending you this letter as a means of expressing my opposition to the Universal Service Plan. I believe that the way the FCC is planning on funding this plan puts too much dependence on Internet Service Providers, and levies a tax on a specific group of people, rather than the general populace as a whole.

Colin Staub

96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Craig, Howard <hclzc@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 9:44pm
Subject: Oppose Universal Service

Dear Commisioner Chong:
I am urging you to vote NO on the proposal to approve Universal Service which will give certain agencies discounted rates.

Howard Craig
502 Edinburg Rd.
New Castle, PA 16102

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: robert myers <rude@compuserve.com>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("@compuserve.com")
Date: 5/6/97 9:33pm
Subject: just say no

i am opposed to this idea of selective taxing. figure something else out!!

96-45

=====
FCC Universal Service Plan Damaging To ISPs
=====

On May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission will vote on a **DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL** proposal regarding "universal service." Universal Service is the program that subsidizes low-cost communication services for organizations and entities who might otherwise not be able to afford access to these services.

If adopted, this proposal will cost consumers and businesses an estimated \$3 billion per year, and most of the financial burden will be borne by ISPs, online services and their customers. The Association of Online Professionals, on behalf of its members, urges you to contact the FCC and ask them to reject this proposal.

A provision of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sponsored by Senators Olympia Snowe, Jay Rockefeller, James Exon, and Bob Kerrey) specifies that, upon request, individual telecommunications carriers must provide service to schools and libraries at "affordable" rates.

The FCC plans to fund the \$2.25 billion cost of this lower-cost school service each year by increasing telephone line fees for consumers and businesses that have more than one telephone line. The additional cost is estimated to be from \$4 to \$6 per line per month for businesses, and at least \$3.50 per line for consumers who have more than one telephone line to their homes. Details of the program are at <<http://www.fcc.gov/learnnet/welcome.html#rates>>.

For consumers, this will be a disincentive to add lines for fax or modem usage, and has been labeled by some consumer groups as a "modem tax."

The widest range of business users who have more than one telephone line will benefit from other reductions in long-distance charges that will offset the increases. This will not be the case for Internet Service Providers and online services, which have business lines used only for incoming dial-up access by their subscribers. ISPs and online services will therefore bear the brunt of the economic burden for this program.

Under the proposed program, Internet Service providers would be

required to provide connectivity to schools, libraries and health care facilities at discounts of 20% to 90% off of normal rates. This discounted amount would then be reimbursed to the ISP through the Universal Service program.

The proposal has gone through a lengthy process of recommendation and comment, and is in its final stage. It requires only the vote of the FCC on May 8 to begin implementation.

AOP opposes the proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

AOP encourages all online services and their subscribers to voice their opposition to this "modem tax" by contacting the FCC immediately. Contact information is as follows:

Chairman Reed Hundt: rhundt@fcc.gov
Commissioner James Quello: jquello@fcc.gov
Commissioner Susan Ness: sness@fcc.gov
Commissioner Rachelle Chong: rchong@fcc.gov

Or by mail or fax at:

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554
(202) 418-0232 FAX

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Randy Gabrielse <gabriel2@pilot.msu.edu>
To: A7.A7(JQUELLO,SNESS,RCHONG,rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 9:19pm
Subject: Universal Service and Rate Increases

Mrs. Hundt, Quello, Ness, and Chong,

I find it VERY DISTURBING that the FCC is seeking to raise line fees for ISPs, and otherwise penalize small phone and internet users while profiting big business users. I SUSPOSE THAT, LIKE HIGHER CABLE RATES, THIS IS PART OF THE "SAVINGS" THAT "CONSUMERS" ARE SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT. I attempted to comment during the "comment period" for the recent proposals, but the comment procedures were so buried in bureacratize that no regular people could make heads or tails of it without a week of work. I'm studying for a Ph.D. so I consider myself reasonably intelligent, but did not have a week to go through the mumbo jumbo.

I never did believe the rhetoric about computers and the internet as "democratizing discourse." Now I am vindicated in knowing that the FCC will help big business and phone companies be the big winners from the Telecommunications Act while the FCC makes sure non-profits, students, and other people are slowly booted off communications lines.

Sincerely,
D. Randall Gabrielse
D. Randall Gabrielse
Michigan State University
gabriel2@pilot.msu.edu

96-45

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From: "steve turkstra" <turk@wmol.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/6/97 9:15pm

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

> From: steve turkstra <turk@wmol.com>
> To:
>
> Subject:
> Date: Tuesday, May 06, 1997 9:00 PM
>
> Although it is a noble idea to provide low cost or free internet access
to
> those who have been arbitrarily designated as unable to pay for the
service
> , it is unfair to put the burden of the cost of this program on consumers
> with multiple phone lines and internet providers . A study should be
> conducted to first determine if access is not already available through
> existing governmental services . Once a need has been proven for
alternative
> internet access , a program should be developed which spreads the
financial
> burden over a broader base than just the current targeted groups . Your
> current proposal would unfairly punish working class families who have
> added second phone lines to provide their own family with internet access

9645

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG)

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: James Dawson <jrdawson@gnv.fdt.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 9:07pm
Subject: "universal service."

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Dear Ms Chong,

On May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission will vote on a proposal regarding "universal service."

Universal Service is the program that subsidizes low-cost communication services for organizations and entities who might otherwise not be able to afford access to these services.

I oppose the proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Sincerely,
James R. Dawson
16720 SW 42nd Ave.
Archer, Fl. USA 32618
352-495-3673

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Anna-Mary Suggs <amsuggs@telepath.com>
To: FCC Commissioner Rachelle Chong <rchong@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/6/97 8:59pm
Subject: Southwestern Bell Long Distance

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

I am writing to express my support of allowing Southeastern Bell's entry into the long distance market. In my professional capacity as executive director of the Norman Chamber of Commerce, I certainly appreciate the importance of potential job creation. Southwestern Bell is already a significant employer in our local economy and the company's expanded work force to handle long distance service would naturally be good for the state.

96-45

From the standpoint of the consumer, Southwestern Bell would provide a convenient "one stop" source for both local and long distance service, and the marketplace would benefit from the increased competition.

Finally, as an Oklahoman, I would be proud if we were able to lead the way in developing improved marketing channels for telecommunications.

Thank you for your service to the public.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

From: "sparrow" <sparrow@cconnect.net>
To: A7.A7(rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 8:52pm
Subject: E-rate support

As a third-grade teacher in a Chapter I school, I support the adoption of the E-rate proposal to assist schools similar to ours in providing access for larger numbers of students to the Internet and other technological advantages. This would enable students to increase their learning and exposure to technology they might otherwise not use. Thank you for support of advanced technologies for all schools, all students.

96-45

Rae Anne Sparrow

CC: A7.A7(SNESS,RCHONG)

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC9645

From: Resumes That Get Interviews <katesresumes@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 5:37pm
Subject: modem tax

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It is very difficult for small businesses like myself to keep my head above water. Another tax on phone line usage can be detrimental to many small businesses. Please review the proposal before voting on Thursday and reconsider other options to alleviate the trickle down effect this may have on numerous individuals.

Thank you for your professional attention to this matter.

Sincerely
Kate Frissora

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG,SNESS,JQUELLO)

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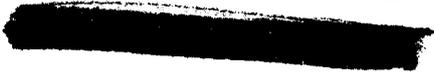
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Smithley, Ruth A. <boss lady@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 5:39pm
Subject: Fw: modem tax

> From: Ruth Smithley <BOSSLADY@pathway.net>
> To: rhundt@fcc.gov
> Subject: modem tax
> Date: Tuesday, May 06, 1997 5:33 PM
>
> please do not pass this modem tax. we are retirement age and enjoy
sending
> email to our grandson at West Point and our Christian missionary alliance
> missionaris. We contact them to get their prayer requests. We can not
> afford higher rates.
>
> Thank you
> Ruth and Carl Smithley
> 417 Old Ash rd.
> Mercer, Pa.

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CC96-85



From: Blakley, David A. <traderdave@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 5:43pm
Subject: rate increase

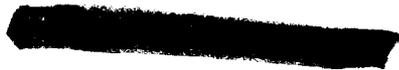
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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Rachelle,
Please vote against the proposed rate increase for phone line usage.
Thank you,
David Blakley



096-95

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From: Harvey, Byron <bharvey@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 5:46pm
Subject: Proposed regulations

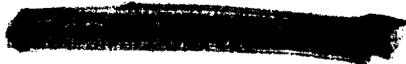
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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

We do NOT need ANOTHER TAX!!! Please, Washington, get the picture. Vote
DOWN the proposed FCC regulations. Thank you.

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CC 96-45

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Miller, Debra A. <CompuQuick@pathway.net>
To: "FCC Rachelle Chong" <rchong@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/6/97 5:48pm
Subject: Opposition to Universal Service

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

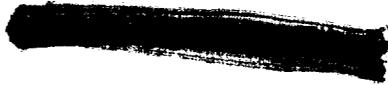
I strongly oppose the Universal Service proposal. I like many other new businesses am struggling to make a go of it. My medical - legal transcription business will implement "many" phone lines for use with a memory bank for clients to dictate into. I must be competitive and keep my rates down; if I have to pay an additional fee per line . . . I simply cannot afford it.

Our community is a small rural community. We rely heavily on telecommunications to reach the outside world. Our businesses barely manage to make ends meet. We CAN NOT afford to support anyone else.

Please vote NO to the "Universal Service" proposal.

Thank you.
Debra A. Miller
Compu-Quick

SUNSHINE PERIOD



From: Lees, Judy <judylees@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 5:55pm
Subject: universal service proposal

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I urge you to refuse the above proposal as it poses a real threat to existing modem and internet users. This will make the cost unreachable for many people. Please refuse this proposal on Thursday, May 8 when you vote. Thank you.

SUNSHINE PERIOD



From: <tlai@muse.sfusd.K12.ca.us>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 5:56pm
Subject: Telecommunications Services for schools and libraries

Please support the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board which called for discounts ranging from 20-90% on all types of telecommunications services. These services should include inside networks and cost of internet services which are very important to schools which must keep on top of the newest and latest technologies. Students cannot leave school being illiterate of the newest developments and equipment. Universal services are essential for libraries and schools.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC 96-45

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Bat Lang <Bat.Lang@1201.ima.infomail.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 6:00pm
Subject: FCC Universal Service Plan

Commissioner Rachelle Chong:

I urge you to oppose the subj plan, when it comes before the FCC for a vote.

The three principle reasons for my opposition to this plan are:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses, since it would apparently benefit all children or users of the targeted facilities.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Please vote NO! Thanks for your time, and Good Modeming! /oo/\

K.E. Lang
LTC USAF, Ret

... NetMail: 1:382/1201 or E-mail: bat.lang@1201.ima.infomail.com
--- Blue Wave/Max v2.30

--
| Fidonet: Bat Lang 1:382/1201
| Internet: Bat.Lang@1201.ima.infomail.com
|

| Standard disclaimer: The views of this user are strictly their own.

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SUNSHINE PERIOD [REDACTED]

CC 96-45

From: David Bolt <dbolt@MIS.Net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 6:30pm
Subject: Telecommunication Regs

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Chong:

I am e-mailing you in support of regs you will consider on 5-7 in re universal service. Allowing rural health care providers good rates and toll-free Internet connects would have a significant and very positive affect on the patients we serve in rural areas.

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We do Telemedicine with the University hospital and would like to be able to afford our patients in Sandy Hook, Olive Hill, Frenchburg, and Owingsville the same service over Telemedicine.

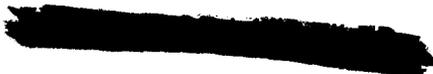
Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

David Bolt
St. Claire Medical Center
Morehead, Kentucky

SUNSHINE PERIOD

cc 96-45



From: "J.E. Craddock" <hmg@itsnet.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 6:56pm
Subject: "Modem Tax"

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am writing to oppose the Universal Service program, the so-called "Modem Tax." It seems that there has not been enough study on the matter to act. Also, this program specifically targets Internet Service Providers and their subscribers. Furthermore, I cannot see why our business should pay a higher monthly fee for each phone line so that schools and libraries can have less expensive Internet service. This is nothing more than another redistributionist tax!

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I suggest that before action is taken on the matter that more study be given toward alternatives.

Thank you,

J. E. Craddock
General Manager
Highlander Management Group

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Sharon Meyers <SharonMe@mailgate.harker.pvt.k12.ca.us>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 8:35pm
Subject: Discounts for internet services

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Consumer Affairs

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Sharon Meyers, and I am the head of the Technology department at The Harker School, a K-8 private, non-parochial school in San Jose, California. Please accept my thanks for your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the information superhighway. It is a common public misconception that private schools always have the funds to pay full commercial rates for technology and technological services. It is very important that we guarantee that ALL children have access to the distance learning opportunities available through the information superhighway, not just those attending public schools, but those attending any school. In addition, it is important that available services be not only affordable but of a sufficiently good quality that the full spectrum of options is available - this means not only ISDN, but T1, Frame Relay, and other higher speed options. At our school, such a discount would be very helpful in defraying the costs of our Internet connection.

96-45

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Thank you very much for your consideration,
Sharon Meyers
The Harker School
San Jose, California

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Borland, Anne <anneborland@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 8:34pm
Subject: Fw: Universal Service Plan

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Enforcement

> From: K. Anne Borland <anneborland@pathway.net>
> To: rhundt@fcc.gov
> Cc: jquello@fcc.gov
> Subject: Universal Service Plan
> Date: Tuesday, May 06, 1997 8:32 PM

>

> Dear Sirs:

>

> I am a 61 year old homemaker using my computer and the Internet to keep in

> touch with my family and friends around the country. My husband is retired.

> We have installed an additional phone line into our home expressly for this

> activity.

>

> At present we pay school taxes in addition to income, property, sales and
> other hidden taxes to fund any number of things. It is offensive to us that

> we now should be singled out to pay more taxes because we have two phone
> lines. Do you really think that is fair? We don't and plan to contact both

> our Senators and Congressman to complain.

>

> Please register our disgust for this idea!!

>

> K. Anne Borland (Mrs. John)

> R. D. 8, Box 557

> New Castle, PA 16105

>

> anneborland@pathway.net

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG)

96-457

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: <sysop@emcyber.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 7:53pm
Subject: Vote no on Modem Tax

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Rachelle Chong,

This message is to voice my opposition to the proposed Universal Service Plan. It will be a burden to everyone that is moving forward into the next century via the Internet.

Our Internet Service business would be devastated if we were required to pay the additional fees for phone service. We are attempting to open up our town and surrounding areas to the vast resources of the Internet and this proposal would reduce this availability.

Please consider all of those that are trying to improve the level of access for small town America and how increasing the price would reduce the number of people able to afford this access.

Howard Frisvold
SYSOP@EMCYBER.COM

9645

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Jamison, Harold C. <hcjamison@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(JQUELLO,SNESS,RCHONG,rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 7:40pm
Subject: Additional tax on multi-line telephone customers "universal service"

I urge you to reject this proposal which sounds to me like another way to sneak in a tax increase by not raising taxes. When will we get out of this tax tax tax phase?

I only have one telephone line now, because of the cost, but I know it will hit me because it will hit my server.

Harold C. Jamison
PO Box 384
Harrisville, PA 16038

9645

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: <AShadwick@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 7:34pm
Subject: FCC Recommendation

REC'D
MAY 7 1997
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Federal Communications Commission
Division of Enforcement

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I understand that the FCC is acting on the Joint Board's recommendation on the Universal Service provision of the Telecommunications Act on May 7th and that there is an alternative proposal for universal service which would cut \$1 billion from the first year of the school and library program.

9645

This would be a disgrace! Schools and libraries deserve full funding for this program, even if it must be over time. I urge you to vote against this alternative proposal and to support the need for schools and libraries in California as well as across the country.

Sincerely,

VirginiaAnn G. Shadwick
Librarian
San Francisco State University

SUNSHINE PERIOD [REDACTED]

CC 96-45

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: "Klink.Net System Administrator" <admin@Klink.Net>
To: A7.A7(JQUELLO, SNESS, RCHONG, rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 7:00pm
Subject: Re: FCC Vote On "Modem Tax"

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Gentlemen,

This is to request that you reject the so called "universal service" proposal. As we understand it, universal service is a program to subsidize low-cost communication services for organizations and entities who might otherwise not be able to afford access to these services.

However, we understand that the FCC plans to fund the \$2.25 billion cost of this lower-cost school service each year by increasing telephone line fees for consumers and businesses that have more than one telephone line. The additional cost is estimated to be from \$4 to \$6 per line per month for businesses, and at least \$3.50 per line for consumers who have more than one telephone line to their homes.

For consumers, this will be a disincentive to add lines for fax or modem usage, and has been labeled by some consumer groups as a "modem tax." The widest range of business users who have more than one telephone line will benefit from other reductions in long-distance charges that will offset the increases.

This however, will not be the case for Internet Service Providers and online services, which have business lines used only for incoming dial-up access by their subscribers. ISPs and online services will therefore bear the brunt of the economic burden for this program.

In our opinion, if adopted, this proposal will cost consumers and businesses an estimated \$3 billion per year, and most of the financial burden will be borne by ISPs, online services and their customers.

We oppose the proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Thank you for your consideration in this subject.