

262



UNITED STATES  
TELEPHONE  
ASSOCIATION

May 5, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD



RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Hundt:

AT&T's May 3rd letter, in which AT&T agrees to pass through access charge reductions provided that the Commission reduces access charges by at least \$1.7 billion effective July 1, 1997, does not justify arbitrary reductions in access charges.

While, at long last, AT&T has agreed to pass through access charge reductions, price cap regulation has provided reductions in access charges of approximately \$9 billion over the past five years. Customers have been denied the benefits of those reductions. In a truly competitive marketplace, the market automatically adjusts to reductions in costs. A "deal" would not be necessary. Further, AT&T's limits on the amount of the presubscribed line charge are arbitrary and will not reflect the full value of restructured access charge rates.

Attached is a copy of the press release issued by USTA in response to the AT&T letter. USTA is confident that the Commission's decision will be based on the record before it, and not on a last minute promise by AT&T. The record does not support arbitrary reductions in access charges. The record does not support any increase in the productivity offset for price cap LECs.

Sincerely,

Roy M. Neel  
President and CEO

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Quello  
Commissioner Ness  
Commissioner Chong



# NEWS RELEASE

May 5, 1997

Contact: Chris Valmassei  
(202) 326-7279

## **AT&T's ACCESS CHARGE 'DEAL' HOLDS CUSTOMER HOSTAGE, USTA SAYS**

*The following statement may be attributed to Roy Neel, president and chief executive officer of the United States Telephone Association.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- "It is about time. Where has AT&T been? While it is commendable that the company is finally agreeing to pass through to consumers a reduction in access charges, it is too little too late. Consumers and regulators should ask AT&T what happened to the earlier decreases in access charges, to the tune of \$9 billion industry wide in the last five years. Shouldn't customers have seen the benefit of those decreases?

"If the long distance market were truly competitive, the FCC would not feel compelled to make a deal with AT&T in order for customers to see their rates decrease. The marketplace would take care of that and the long distance oligopoly would not be able to hold customers hostage while they arm wrestle the FCC into submission. It is only now that the FCC is about to reform access charges that AT&T sees a chance to extort something from the agency and is willing to share cost reductions with its customers."

###

Celebrating a century of service to its members, USTA is the nation's only forum for the small, mid-size and large companies of the U.S. local exchange carrier industry. The association represents more than 1,200 companies worldwide.

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

1530 CONCORDIA WEST • IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92612-3299  
714-854-8002

April 29, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

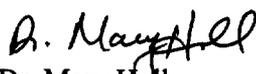
Dear Chairman Hundt,

Recently Concordia University became aware of a proposal that would significantly increase Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) for multi-line customers. As an administrator of a private, Liberal Arts university, I must inform you that our administration is very much opposed to the proposed increases. During an era in which colleges and universities are being challenged to stop increasing tuition, the proposed SLC increase would significantly impact an already tight budget.

Although Concordia University is certainly empathic to the need to provide telecommunications for public K-12 schools, we request that the revenue for that project be generated in a different venue.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

  
Dr. Mary Hell  
Vice President  
Dean of University Services



**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
OF AMERICA™**

**AFFILIATE**

# **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Columbia, Inc.**

Post Office Box 2559 ■ Columbia, SC 29202 ■ (803)691-5700

CC 96-262

**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

**Executive Director**

Nicole R. Spain

**Officers**

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*2nd Vice Chairman*

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- Leon Love
- Beverly Turner
- Donald O. Tyler, Sr.

April 25, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the most important tool we have is communication. This communication is ideally a face to face situation, but the logistics in establishing the meetings between our children and a caring community most often rely on the telephone.

We do not claim to understand the intricacies and complexities of the Telecommunications Act and the Federal Communications Commission, but we do understand the needs of our children. Most of our children come from single parent homes and are members of middle to lower income families. The difficulties faced by these children do not need the additional oppression of lesser services or higher rates for telephones that are so critical to their well-being.

Mr. Chairman, not one resident of South Carolina should suffer from the enactment or implementation of deregulating the telephone industry -- certainly not the children of this State. Please press for fairness in the issues we are concerned about.

Sincerely,

Nicole R. Spain  
Executive Director

**RECEIVED**

**MAY - 8 1997**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**



CC96-262



# THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

April 30, 1997

MAY - 8 1997

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Mr. Hundt:

We have been informed that two issues currently before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) could significantly increase telecommunications costs to higher education institutions and other large multi-line business users.

One proposal may raise the cap on business multi-line subscriber line charges (SLC) and add a pre-subscribed line (PSL) surcharge. A decision by the FCC to implement this proposal could result in an increase in monthly charges of as much as \$1,672.00 at The University of Southern Mississippi.

The other proposal of concern is the reduction in interstate access charges by 40 to 50%. We have a telephone system behind a university owned private branch exchange (PBX), and receive revenue for long distance calls terminating on our system. Revenues from terminating these calls could be cut by up to \$2,000.00 or more each month at this institution.

As we understand it, the purpose of these proposals is compliance with the telecommunications act of 1996, and in particular to establish rules for discounted telecom services for K - 12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities subsidized through the universal fund. While the cause seems worthy, we doubt the intent was for universities and colleges to subsidize the discounts for K - 12 schools, especially since we provide education and libraries too.

As a non profit, state supported institution of higher learning, our budget would be significantly impacted if the proposals are implemented. We request the proposals be amended to exclude colleges and universities.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Henderson  
Vice President for Business & Finance

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC 96-262



# James B. Haggin Memorial Hospital

484 Linden Ave.

Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330

606-734-5441

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

DATE: May 7, 1997

TO: Commissioner Rachelle Chong

FROM: Earl J. Motzer, Ph.D. *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Telecommunications Regulations Affecting Telemedicine

This fax is to encourage your support of the universal service regulations.

As a small rural hospital CEO with a Rural Health Outreach Grant for telemedicine, I know how important it is to subsidize distance charges, and to have toll free connections to the internet for vital medical information our patient care team needs. Thanks.

EJM/pb

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC 96-262

**Caldwell County**  
**HOSPITAL**

P.O. Box 410 - 101 Hospital Drive  
Princeton, Kentucky 42445  
(502) 365-0300

**RECEIVED**

**MAY - 8 1997**

**TO:** Commissioner Jim Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness

**FROM:** John Svoboda, Chief Executive Officer

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**DATE:** May 6, 1997

**RE:** **Upcoming Vote by FCC Commissioners on  
Telecommunications Regulations Affecting  
Telemedicine**

From my understanding, on **Wednesday, May 7, 1997**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is preparing to vote on a telecommunications policy that will have a significant impact on Caldwell County Hospital. Specifically, the vote will consist of a "universal service" policy, which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Caldwell County Hospital supports these regulations because this will support and subsidize distance charges and will support toll-free connections to the Internet. By adopting these universal service regulations, Caldwell County Hospital can receive the same rates for Telecommunication lines that urban providers receive.

Also, the universal service regulation will allow Caldwell County Hospital to connect to the Internet without paying long distance charges since we do not have a local Internet service provider.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

pc: Carol Blevins Ormay  
Vice President/Membership Services  
Kentucky Hospital Association  
Louisville, KY

**Caldwell County**  
**HOSPITAL**

P.O. Box 410 - 101 Hospital Drive  
Princeton, Kentucky 42445  
(502) 365-0300

FAX NUMBER 502/365-0413

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Contact: Eileen Duff  
FROM: JOHN Sroboda, C.E.O.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

DATE SENT: 5/6/97

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CALIFORNIA  
HEALTHCARE  
ASSOCIATION

**Fax Transmittal**

Rural Healthcare Center

Telephone: 916-552-7579

Department Fax: 916-552-7596

Date: May 6, 1997

To: Commissioner Rachelle Chong

Company:

Fax Number: 202 418 - 2820

Number of Pages (including cover sheet):                     

From: **Sharon Avery**

Telephone Number: **(916) 552-7579**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

CALIFORNIA  
HEALTHCARE  
ASSOCIATION

Rural Healthcare Center

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

CC 96-262

May 6, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Commissioner Jim Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan NessSubject: Upcoming vote by FCC Commissioners on Telecommunications Regulations Affecting  
Telemedicine

Dear Commissioners:

The Rural Healthcare Center (RHC) encourages you to support "universal service" policy which would include subsidies for distance charges and toll-free connections to the Internet for rural communities.

The Rural Healthcare Center represents the 75 small and rural hospitals in California. These hospitals are located throughout this large geographic state in mountain, coastal, desert and agricultural regions. They are the largest or next to the largest employer in their community and serve as an important anchor for the local economy. Forty of the California rural hospitals are classified as sole community providers. Sixty-four percent of California's small and rural hospitals lost money on operations in 1996 and as a result, access to health care services for rural Californians and visiting tourists is becoming a serious concern.

It is extremely important that rural hospitals not be blocked from developing appropriate telemedicine programs because of high telecommunication costs. Rural communities play a large role in the overall economy of the United States and should not be required to carry an unnecessary financial burden to implement telehealth programs because of long distance charges that accompany most rural areas. The Telecommunications Act will not benefit rural communities and rural health care providers if the FCC chooses not to provide some relief in these distance charges.

The long distance charges for access to the Internet should also be addressed. The Internet provides a wealth of clinical information which can have a positive effect on health outcomes in rural areas. We need to encourage rural providers to take advantage of this information not discourage them because the price is too high.

The Rural Healthcare Center encourages you to approve policy that supports and subsidizes distance charges and supports toll-free connections to the Internet in rural areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Avery", written over a white background.

Sharon Avery  
Director

Cooper County Memorial Hospital

Boonville, MO

(816) 882-7461

(816) 882-6093 fax

**IMPORTANT**



**TRANSMISSION**

**Cooper County Memorial Hospital**

|          |                                      |        |                        |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| To:      | <u>Eileen Duff</u>                   | Date:  | <u>5-6-97</u>          |
| FAX #:   | <u>202-418-2820</u>                  | Pages: | <u>2</u>               |
| From:    | <u>Wilbert Meyer</u>                 |        |                        |
| Subject: | <u>Telecommunication Policy Note</u> |        | (including this cover) |

CC96-262



**Cooper County  
Memorial Hospital & Clinics**  
17651 B Hwy. • P.O. Box 88  
Boonville, MO 65233  
816-882-7461

**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

**Board of Trustees**

- Carl E. Reynolds
- James D. Oswald
- Anna Mae Sleckman
- M. Ann Stout
- Rex Myers

Wilbert Meyer  
Administrator

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1997

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 8 1997**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**

**TO: Eileen Duff  
Office of Commissioner Rachelle Chong**

**FROM: Wilbert E. Meyer,  
Administrator/CEO**

**SUBJECT: FCC Vote on Telecommunications Policy**

In our community, the continuation of offering telemedicine services will depend on its affordability.

On Wednesday, May 7, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on a "universal service" policy, which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Cooper County Memorial Hospital urges Commissioner Chong to support directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

Presently, CCMH's dedicated telephone line that transmits teleradiography and telemedicine is subsidized through a federal grant. Upon expiration of the grant, CCMH will be paying \$32,000 per year for a dedicated telephone line that transmits imaging to a metropolitan hospital less than 30 miles away. This is the standard charge with or without transmissions.

By supporting universal service, Commissioner Chong, the gap between the levels of health care services available in metropolitan areas and those in rural areas will be narrowed, access to health care in rural areas will be increased, the quality of rural health care services will improve and costs of providing health care in rural areas will be lessened.

Thank you for your consideration and support for directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

WEM/lps

# Michigan Technological University

1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, Michigan 49931-1295



SUNSHINE PERIOD

Office of the Executive Vice President  
and Provost

Phone: 906/487-2440

FAX: 906/487-2935

RECEIVED

MAY ... 8 1997

May 2, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Commissioner James E. Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness

Federal Communications Commissions  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: "Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262"

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that the FCC may approve significant increases in telephone Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and Pre-Subscriber Line surcharges (PSLC) for multi-line business customers plus levy a "universal service social agenda obligation fee" for Cellular, PCS, and Paging services. Colleges and universities affected by these increases will in effect be major players in underwriting the FCC costs to implement requirements of the 1996 Telecommunications ACT for discounted telecommunications services to K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities, and lifeline services.

Universal telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal, and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish this worthy goal. While the end result of these charges has merit, the FCC must consider the impact of these increases on Higher Education Institutions, especially publicly-funded institutions.

We would encourage the Commission to review the impact of the proposed changes and the financial implications for Higher Education Institutions. It should be remembered that increased charges on the general business public eventually find their way back to the consumer and to Higher Education Institutions in the form of higher costs for goods and services.

The impact of the proposed increases at Michigan Tech is estimated to be over \$288,000 annually. We cannot afford to absorb this increase without raising tuition/fees or jeopardizing other programs and services at the University.

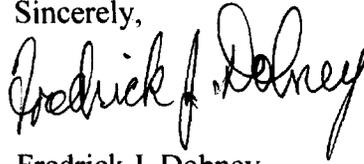
"Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262"

May 2, 1997

Page 2

The affordability of a college education is already a struggle for many. We hope that you will not inadvertently rob higher education or make it inaccessible in order to benefit K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities and lifeline services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fredrick J. Dobney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "D".

Fredrick J. Dobney

Executive Vice President and Provost

cc: Senator Carl Levin  
Senator Spencer Abraham  
Congressman Bart Stupak  
Brian Moir, Attorney  
Jeri Semer, Executive Director, ACUTA  
Jim Cross, Vice Provost for Information Technology, MTU

# CareAmerica

CC 96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Via Facsimile  
April 28, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We at CareAmerica Health Plans are very concerned about your proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support new telecommunications capabilities at schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. As a health plan with more than 263,000 group and Medicare members, we utilize approximately 800 phone lines at our company, 20 % of which are toll-free and provide free and direct access to our members should they need assistance with any aspect of their coverage or medical services. A fee of \$4.50 per line per month would add a charge of more than \$43,000 a year to our company's telephone costs, of which more than \$10,000 would be added to our current costs of providing toll-free service to these customers.

I urge you not to adopt the Subscriber Line Charge increase, which would impose an expensive, additional tax on all businesses and would impact many organizations' abilities to provide toll-free customer service and access. We believe that taxes to support telecommunications for schools, libraries, rural healthcare providers or others should be supported by all sectors, not just businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges. All telecommunications consumers -- businesses as well as residential -- deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways that do not penalize businesses which already are paying excessive rates to meet their telecommunications needs.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Mason

Director, Telecommunications Services  
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President  
Bob Steiger, CIO



SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Cyrus M. Jollivette  
Vice President for Government Relations

May 6, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

It has come to our attention that the Federal Commission (FCC) may approve large increases in Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and Pre-Subscribed Line (PSL) surcharges. Universities affected by these increases, in effect, would underwrite the FCC costs to implement requirements of the Telecommunication Act of 1995 for discounted telecommunication service to K-12 public schools, libraries, and rural health facilities.

Universal telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal, and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish this goal. However, my colleagues and I must protest strongly shifting the burden of building this fund to private, non-profit educational institutions. Private higher education institutions already make substantial contribution toward the costs of telecommunications access.

If adopted, the proposal now being considered by the Commission to implement the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1995 could result in new costs to the University of Miami in excess of \$1 million annually. What the Federal Communications Commission has proposed is no small matter; particularly in view of the current national debate about the cost of private higher education. I hasten to point out that the pending FCC proposal is an example of how a government action can impact private higher education tuition through the imposition of unavoidable costs on the higher education community.

The University of Miami is a private institution in the public service. Tuition and fees cover but a small portion of the cost of educating our students, so we depend upon generous private philanthropic support and student tuition to support our operations. We do not take from

Commissioner Chong

May 6, 1997

Page 2

the nation. On the contrary, we give much to it.

Each year we enroll thousands of students who receive substantial private support from University sources to pay for their education. Annually we provide graduate and professional training to almost 200 active Florida teachers at substantially reduced tuition (50 percent). Our nursing school operates community clinics to provide access to health care to numerous poor elderly, and children. Our medical school provides the medical care and supervision of staff at the nation's second largest medical center. Our scientists conduct research--bio-medical, environmental, social science--the results of which can and does alter the quality and course of life and contribute to the well-being of millions of people. Our contribution to citizens in Florida and beyond is a well-documented.

The additional \$1 million per year in new costs we would face if the Commission adopts the proposal is a burden we are ill-prepared to bear. My colleagues and I urge you to seek sources other than private, non-profit institutions of higher education to underwrite universal connectivity.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyrus M. Jollivette", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cyrus M. Jollivette  
Vice President for  
Government Relations

cc Florida Congressional Delegation

**RECEIVED****MAY 8 1997****Purdue University****Agricultural Communication Service**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Voice (765) 494-8396

FAX (765) 496-1117

**FAX****SUNSHINE PERIOD**

**TO:** Rachelle B. Chong, Federal Communications Commission  
**FAX #** (202) 418-2820  
**FROM:** Dave King, Department Head  
Agricultural Communication  
**DATE:** May 7, 1997  
**RE:** Universal Service Fund Comment  
Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Total Pages (including cover sheet):2

In response to request for comment on the Universal Service Fund of the 1996 Telecom Act, we suggest that the local educational foundation which can draw on this fund for high speed data connections be expanded to include the more than 3000 county Extension offices nationwide.

Rationale below:

**Cooperative Extension Offices—Part of a Three Way Community Educational Foundation**

The Cooperative Extension Service is made up of community-based educational centers in every county of Indiana. These county extension offices are sources of education and information for citizens of Indiana. The county extension educators who live in these communities collaborate with and extend beyond the traditional boundaries of K-12 and libraries.

Although regularly misidentified as the "agricultural" Extension service, county extension offices provide information and education for consumers, leaders and businesses in every community across the state. Beyond the traditionally well known areas of agriculture and food production, county extension educators provide educational opportunities in many areas of leadership development, consumer issues, and family issues—the basic fabric of local communities.

FCC Fax

May 7, 1997

page 2

Among the educational opportunities and programs are available from county educators are:

- aging society issues
- careers and job training
- child care
- economic development
- environmental education
- solid wastes management
- water quality
- interpersonal relations
- leadership development
- nutrition and health
- science education

In Indiana alone the last year, the more than 240 county extension educators participated in a total of more than 4 million educational contacts statewide. This includes one-on-one, workshops and seminars, and telephone contacts. In addition 20,000 people statewide volunteer as educators and leaders with gardeners, 4-H clubs, consumers, and community leaders. This can be multiplied by each state.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of a land-grant university network connecting every county in every state with every other county in every other state. The educational materials and programs which are used at the community level are developed by faculty and staff at land-grant universities through out the country. These programs are developed in direct response to the community needs as identified by county extension educators at the grassroots level.

This issue is how to characterize the county extension service. Our concern is that the Cooperative Extension Service, with county extension offices in every county of the state be clearly recognized a part of the three-way educational foundation of every community—K-12 schools, libraries, *and* county extension offices. Reaching out more than 4 million times each year with education and information—sometimes independently and many times in collaboration with schools and libraries—in broad-based areas that improve adult and young people's capabilities and quality of life clearly makes the case for this recognition.

Our FAX number is (317) 496-1117  
If you have problems, please call (317) 494-8396



Jerilyn S. McIntyre  
Interim President

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 30, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554  
Via Fax (202) 418-2801

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262  
Priority: Urgent (FCC to vote on proposal May 6, 1977)

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It has come to the attention of the University of Utah that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a proposal that will target multi-line business customers as a resource to support an initiative to upgrade the internal wiring and network accessibility of public K-12 schools and libraries, access to the network for rural health care facilities, and increase lifeline services.

As a higher education institution with a six-hundred-bed teaching hospital and the home of the Utah Education Network responsible for supporting distance learning throughout the entire state of Utah, we fully recognize the importance of this initiative. However, as a 12,000-line Centrex customer, the proposed method of funding would likely be the undoing of our own communication infrastructure.

It is our understanding that the Chairman of the FCC is considering the following increases:

- The cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) may be raised from \$6.00 per line to \$9.50 per line per month, including Centrex lines.
- A Pre-Subscribed Line (PSL) surcharge will be imposed on business users. The charge is anticipated to be \$4.50 per multi-line business line. The \$4.50 per month charge would also apply to each Centrex line.

Office of the President  
203 Park Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112  
(801) 581-5701  
FAX (801) 581-6892

Chairman Reed E. Hundt

April 30, 1997

Page Two

- The Salt Lake City cap on second residential lines may be raised from \$3.50 to \$6.00 per month. This will affect University employees and students who telecommute.
- Cellular, PCS, and paging customers may be assessed a \$1.00 fee per telephone number per month.

If these rate increases are approved, the annual impact to the University of Utah will exceed \$1,152,000. This amount is greater than our total annual budget for campus networking and infrastructure renovation, thereby rendering helpless the very institution that is responsible for supporting K-12 distance learning and rural health care services in Utah.

In addition to the proposed increases, the University of Utah also stands to lose an additional \$78,000 per year of revenue if the Interstate access charges are cut by 40 to 50 percent as proposed by the FCC.

Due to the disproportionate share of responsibility the proposed plan places on the University of Utah, in an effort to accomplish the universal service social agenda, I strongly encourage you help us convince the Chairman of the FCC to reconsider his proposed plan and seek more equitable means of funding.

Sincerely,



Jeryllyn S. McIntyre  
Interim President

JSM/lm

cc: Thomas G. Nycum, Vice President for Administrative Services

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**From:** Pam Reiger <angelnurse@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(rhundt)  
**Date:** 5/7/97 5:38pm  
**Subject:** Modem tax

Mr. Reed Hundt,

This is amazing! What a ludicrous way of making money! The federal government and the FCC has proposed some pretty incredible things, such as splitting my area code (412), but this one is the most incredible thing yet.

This Modem tax is a tax without reason....let alone without representation. The FCC should be ashamed of itself for this idea. You are in the business of furthering the development of communication, not taxing it to the point that it becomes un-affordable to the masses. President Clinton stated in his State of the Union address that he wanted internet access affordable and accessible to the population no matter where they were...school, home, or hospital. I firmly oppose this modem tax.....get the money from renting the Lincoln Bedroom if you need the money so badly.

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

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

96262

**From:** Papa B <buddahbox@geocities.com>  
**To:** "Reed Hundt" <rhundt@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 5/7/97 5:54pm  
**Subject:** Modem tax

Hi,

I am sending this email to let all of you know that I am against the modem tax that you are proposing. We as tax payers are already way over burdened by taxes of all sorts and it must stop before we all loose the American dream. I am 41 years old and have a good paying job and can't even afford a house payment. That means the American dream is lost. Please stop this tax. If people can't afford the use of the internet then what good is our future. If people are less fortunate then lets not spend our money giving them freebies and discounts let spend the money to make the more fortunate.

R. Mastrogiovanni  
37624 Copperstone Dr.  
Sterling Hgts., MI 48312

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

96262

**From:** "Greg A. Anderson" <byondf1@earthlink.net>  
**To:** "Chairman Reed Hundt" <rhundt@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 5/7/97 6:11pm  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on the new tax

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you and your fellow bureaucrats to please VOTE NO and delay the tax currently being considered. This tax is just another in a long line of penalties on Internet users. We do not need another tax. We are taxed to DEATH already. Please do not take away anymore of the hard earned money I need to take care of and support my family. The government is already too bloated and needs to be cut drastically. Our countries freedoms are at stake. This tax is not necessary. There are plenty of places to get the money if really needed elsewhere. And by the way. Where does it state in our constitution that everyone has the RIGHT to internet access?

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Greg A. Anderson - <mailto:byondf1@earthlink.net>  
The Anderson Family Home Site - <http://home.earthlink.net/~byondf1/>  
Please stop by and sign our guestbook and take a look around  
Just the best darn personal Home Site on the WWW! :-)

\*\*\*\*\*

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

96-262

**From:** St.John, Debbie L. <arkana@pathway.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(rhundt)  
**Date:** 5/7/97 6:39pm  
**Subject:** "modem tax"

As a student, who works eleven hours per day to barely squeeze by financially, I oppose the proposed modem tax that is on the table and might be passed on May 8th. I know how this will affect the ISP's and that will in turn affect me. I can just afford my connection to the internet now. Raising the cost for me might mean that I have to stop using the internet which I use daily to get information on various topics that help me with my school work and my job which is in juvenile delinquent rehabilitation. I implore you to explore other alternatives to this before passing the law.

Thank-you,

Ms. Deborah L. St. John

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