

I am a little concerned about the proposed rule 02-33 that would make the Universal Service Fee apply to wireless internet service providers (ISPs). This service charge currently is redirected to Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (Pacific Bell, Verizon, SBC, etc.) who they themselves operate their own internet services and may at any time enter the wireless internet market. It would be unfair to force wireless ISPS to subsidize the building of the ILEC's own competing services. The ILECS are also notoriously known for mismanaging the money they collect from the federal government, the money that is collected under the Universal Service Fee. Another argument is that recently the FCC tentatively ruled that internet services are an information service and not a telecommunications service. The Universal Service Fee was implemented as a way to make telecommunications carriers expand their phone networks into areas that may not necessarily be economically viable. This service fee was charged to subsidize this expansion. Because the law was passed to subsidize the rollout of a telecommunications network, it would not have any application towards an information service.

Thank you for your time in reading this.