

I have heard that there is a proposal being considered to change the method of assessing charges for the Universal Service Fund (USF) fees. The change would be to charge the Individual customers more than what they are currently charged, and to lessen the amount that the business customers are charged.

If the justification for allowing this change is to produce more revenue for the Fund, then I would suggest a better alternative.

According to the FCC Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report covering the period ending September 30, 2002 there are continuing allegations of "waste and fraud". In all of the four areas funded there is a lack of, or no, oversight.

The Center for Public Integrity published a report on January 9, 2003 that states that "Phone Fund for Schools, Libraries riddled with fraud".

Before increasing the amount of fees collected, my recommendation is to stop the waste and fraud associated with this Fund.

Thank You,
Bob Walters