

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I was charged a "minimum usage fee" of \$5.00(per mo.)for months by AT&T, and I never made a long distance call or used AT&T in any way. Why are they allowed to do this? When I complained, they said, if I maintained AT&T, I would no longer be charged this fee. Needless to say,I was charged again, and immediately canceled their service. I have had my local phone company agree to special rates, only to alter these without informing me. Phone companies lie to get business in addition to "hidden charges." Who really needs them or long distance carriers with cell phones? Personally, I feel they need to be required to be honest,and return money to customers.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law

or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.