



April 6, 2004

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Numbers: 96-45; 98-171; 90-571; 92-237; 99-200; 95-116 and 98-170

Dear Chairman Martin:

Congratulations on your appointment as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Keep USF Fair Coalition represents the interests of millions of consumers in the disability, minority, rural, consumer and senior communities. On behalf of the millions of consumers represented by our nineteen national member- and supporter-organizations, and on behalf of our more than 68,000 individual members, we urge you to oppose a change in Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "revenue-based" contribution to a flat fee "subscriber" model. Our main concern is the negative implications this plan would have for our collective membership.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition has already submitted a proposal to the FCC known as the "Fair Share Plan" (enclosed), which achieves the goals of ensuring a sustainable and sufficient Universal Service Fund while minimizing the impact on low-volume, low income consumers. As you continue to review proposals to change the way the FCC collects the USF, we urge you to consider the "Fair Share Plan".

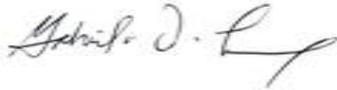
The "Fair Share Plan" suggests expanding the USF contribution base to include all revenues derived from telecommunications, including services using Voice over the Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology. It would establish a contribution factor cap to be applied to the revenue-based approach; carriers would still be assessed based on revenues up to that cap amount, and would still have the right to charge their end users a USF recovery charge not to exceed the percentage they are charged. The balance of the funds needed to support USF would come from a numbers-based charge.

To date, more than 70,000 consumers have filed comments with the FCC opposing the flat-fee, numbers-based proposal. We know you will consider their concerns, and not jeopardize the affordability and accessibility of voice services. The Keep USF Fair Coalition respectfully urges you to reject the unfair "subscriber" flat-fee proposal, since it asks all phone subscribers to pay the same amount, regardless of usage.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition thanks you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you in support of policies that keep the current USF system fair for all. Please contact our Coalition co-chair Gabriela Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation of the League of United Latin American Citizens at (202) 833-6130, if you have any questions concerning the Keep USF Fair Coalition or the "Fair Share Plan".

Sincerely,

Keep USF Fair Coalition



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Enclosure

cc: Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

