

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Please fundamentally reconsider the Universal Service Fee, carefully assessing whether its intended purpose has largely been accomplished.

The Universal Service Fund was originally created to help rural areas get phone service at affordable prices. In 1996, the fund's mission was expanded to help schools and libraries connect to the Internet. The six-year-old fund provides subsidies as high as 90 percent to schools and libraries for their costs associated with connecting to the Internet. While the program has helped thousands of schools and libraries nationwide, particularly in rural and low-income communities, connect to the Internet, the cost of *keeping* them connected is much lower, and does not require the same level of financial support.

Accordingly, please consider a lower level of support for this program, and reduce this tax on the public...rather than creating another abiding tax that continues to expand in breadth and depth, and extending beyond its sanctioned purpose.

What you must not consider is increasing the tax by assessing a flat Universal Service Fee, regardless of the extent of the usage.

Sincerely, Stephen Scalzeti 8249 Iliad Drive Manlius, NY 13104

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