

Dear Chairman Martin,

I am writing to urge the FCC to DENY the cell phone companies' petition to override state law by defining early termination fees as "rates charged." It's obvious that these fees are nothing more than penalties designed to prevent cell phone users from switching to a competitor with better service.

These fees add insult to injury for customers who are disappointed in the service or coverage that their cell phone companies provide. The cell phone industry makes billions of dollars a year. As a result, cell phone companies have the responsibility, ability and resources to compete aggressively with one another and to give customers the best possible service. But early termination fees discourage customers from switching their cell phone plan to a cheaper or better-competing network. This anti-consumer practice undercuts competitive markets, raises cell phone prices and hurts cell phone customers.

The FCC should be encouraging competition, not helping cell phone companies stand in its way. The petition by the cell phone companies' trade association is a blatant attempt to stop states from enforcing their consumer protection laws, limit consumer freedom, and restrict market forces. The Commission should reject the petition and send a message in order to encourage consumer choice and foster competition.

Please do not miss this opportunity to protect consumers and advance competition in the cell phone industry. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hall