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Marlene Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I read recently that the FCC is considering a proposal to add restrictions to the use of the Universal Service Fund. While I respect the FCC's interest in protecting consumers from high fees, I think the proposal to cap the use of the USF for wireless service will do more harm than good.

Rural areas should have the same access to telecom services as do urban areas. That was the point of creating the USF in the first place. In today's world, however, that doesn't just mean landline service. Consumers everywhere depend on wireless phones every day. Rural consumers are no different, and in fact, may even depend on wireless service more than urban consumers because of the need for more travel between places. When I'm traveling in rural areas, I'm depending on the fact that, if I encounter an emergency, I can use my cell phone to call for help.

Growing up in a small town in Upstate New York, I saw first-hand how difficult it can be to attract businesses to rural communities. Part of this problem is the need for reliable and robust infrastructure. Just as with electric power or water service, businesses today depend on the availability of wireless phone service to conduct operations. Rural communities that cannot offer this service are at a disadvantage when attempting to attract new business investment.

The FCC reconsider the proposed cap on wireless USF funding. By cutting

the funds available to expand and improve wireless networks, the Commission will be hurting the very people that the USF was designed to help - rural consumers.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Gosbee