

Alice Marks-Koshar  
PO Box 171  
South Egremont, MA 01258-0171

May 23, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I am writing to express my opposition to this unfair, arbitrary proposal. A wireless-only cap is clearly anti-competitive because it singles out wireless technology, which consumers are choosing more and more over landlines. We should be rewarding competition, not punishing it. What's more, rural Americans deserve the same access to telecom services that are available in the rest of the country—isn't that the purpose of the USF?

The FCC should consider what limiting the growth of wireless access will mean for rural America: wireless technology plays an ever-increasing role in economic growth and is a critical instrument in emergency situations, but if the recommended cap is implemented, many communities may never realize these benefits. In a country that prides itself on equality, it seems hypocritical to restrict certain individuals' access to an essential tool simply because of their geographic location, especially when they have contributed for years to the USF along with everyone else.

Three years ago I travelled throughout SE Asia and was astonished that wireless was THE phone of choice and was available everywhere, EVERYWHERE! At home in South Egremont, MA, not even really rural, I do not have service; but in the most rural parts of Laos and Thailand I did! How can this be?

I urge the FCC to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,

Alice Marks-Koshar