

To Whom it May Concern,

Please help improve the lives of rural Americans by protecting and expanding the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless providers. Wireless telecommunications is no longer a luxury in our society; it is a fundamental necessity for public health, safety and economic development.

Capping the fund will shut the door on rural America. Less USF support for rural wireless networks will leave us with poor coverage, dropped calls and dangerous dead zones. The urban/rural technology gap will only widen.

I spent seven months living and working in Bangor, ME on week days, and experienced much difficulty with reception in less populated areas during my drive from Bangor to Portland to fly home to Chicago on the weekends. Being a woman, driving by myself in unfamiliar areas was uncomfortable knowing I could not always get in touch with emergency response teams should I have an accident or have my car break down. I personally believe taking this action to allow for the expansion of wireless networks is critical for the safety of Americans.

Rural America deserves the same cell phone service as our big cities. I urge you to expand – not cap – the USF. Please don't leave us behind.

Thank you,

Tyler Carroll