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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I live in a rural area and have struggled with Nextel and Cingular for the past 9 years to try to get them to increase the broadcast power or coverage in my area. I depend on my cell phone for my small business communications, yet I cannot use my phone in my house. In fact, I have to walk outside and go a 1/4 mile down the street to get a signal at all. Cingular's advertising said I would be in a "4-bar" area, but in fact I seldom get even 1 bar of signal strength in my area. Yet people who live 1/4 to 1/2 mile away get adequate coverage. This must be remedied.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Hal Phillips