

You may have heard in the news about the young girl, Kelsey Smith, whose body was found in some woods in Missouri after she was reported missing and believed to be abducted. You also may have heard how they found her, too. They were able to find her location and what time she was there by using a cell phone tower that was right by the woods where she was found. Thank God in Kelsey's situation, though the outcome is unfortunate and sad, at least her family will be able to lay her body to rest with the help of a cell phone tower that helped to pinpoint her exact location and even down to the time she tried using it. Freezing funding for cell phone towers in rural areas would be a horrible decision for rural Americans deserve just as good quality service as do big cities and like in Kelsey's case, they can help a family find closure in the search for a loved one.

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.

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.