

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.

As a sales associate for U.S. Cellular in Ankeny, IA, I work with residents of rural Iowa everyday. The Universal Service Fund has not only allowed these customers to use their cell phones at home, but has also allowed U.S. Cellular to achieve the phenomenal level of service we offer to our customers everyday. The positive effects of the USF are evident to myself and my co-workers everyday, and it is absolutely critical that we continue to expand into more rural areas and give the residents of these areas the quality of cell phone service available to urban residents.

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.