

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.

Take into consideration the times you may have drive across a few states and had a need to make a call. When I was driving across the Midwest, as I do every few weeks, I got a flat tire. With limited resourses within a 60 mile radius, my only resort was my cellular telephone for help and repair. With out it, my safety would have been in jeopardy and who knows what may have happened.

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.

Thank you.

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