

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.

In particular, I grew up in rural Idaho and now live in the city. Fortunately, by the time it was necessary, my family was able to gain cell phone access because of multiple providers once they moved into town. However, I have multiple friends and close relatives who are unable to access wireless services. This makes their travel and living particularly scary - especially some at old age.

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.