



State of North Carolina Utilities Commission

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SAM J. ERVIN, IV

4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-4325

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HOWARD N. LEE
WILLIAM T. CULPEPPER, III

May 1, 2007

Debi
Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ray
Ray Baum
Chairman
Oregon Public Utility Commission
550 Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 215
Salem, Oregon 97308-2148

Re: *Written Ex Parte Communication - electronically filed in the proceeding captioned: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45*

Dear Commissioners Tate and Baum:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) has not taken any official position in this proceeding. However, I am writing in my capacity as an *individual member of the NCUC*.

I first want to thank you and your colleagues for your good and hard work on the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service. Universal service reform is a complex and difficult issue, but an issue that is critical to all consumers, particularly those in rural areas.

Consumers in rural parts of North Carolina expect access to the same quality and types of services as their urban counterparts. In addition to traditional landline service, they are demanding state-of-the-art services that include vertical services, broadband and wireless. Universal service support is an essential element of providing these vital services to rural areas with service levels and rates comparable to those available in urban areas. Specifically, it is my belief

Commissioners Tate and Baum
May 1, 2007
Page 2

that rural consumers want and deserve access to the mobility and safety benefits that only wireless service provides. Without appropriate support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers in areas lacking wireless service might not receive these benefits.

I have observed that momentum seems to be building at the Joint Board to attempt to resolve concerns regarding growth of the universal service fund. As you deal with this issue, I urge to you consider reforms that are fair and equitable to all providers without regard to the underlying technology. Rural consumers want and need expanded and improved services for public safety, economic development, business and personal needs that are equally as important to them as they are to urban consumers. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of much needed services in rural areas.

I thank you for your continued service to our nation and for your willingness to deal thoughtfully with these difficult and important issues.

With best wishes, and warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



James Y. Kerr, II

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar
Commissioner Larry S. Landis
Commissioner John D. Burke
Billy Jack Gregg

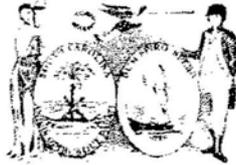
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
State Budget and Control Board

OFFICE OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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DANIEL T. COOPER
CHAIRMAN, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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(803) 734-3793
Fax: (803) 734-3619

Bobby Bowers
DIRECTOR

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am a lawyer and the State E9-1-1 Project Manager in South Carolina, which included the primary drafting of amendments to South Carolina and implementation and administration of the state wireless 911 surcharge and E9-1-1 program. I am also an example and personally biased, as I live, often alone, in the woods on Lake Wateree in rural Fairfield county, 20 miles from any medical facility or ambulance, with no neighbors within half a mile, inadequate to no wireless service, and much use for a chain saw.

Personally and as a servant of South Carolina 911, I oppose the FCC placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. Although such a cap may help eliminate the growth of this fund, it would also result in a number of disservices to rural consumers. Rural consumers want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, economic development, business and personal needs that are equally important to them as they are to urban consumers. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund. Rural Americans deserve the same access to telecom services that are available in the rest of the country—which is the bottom line purpose of the USF? Furthermore, such a wireless only cap is anti-competitive because it favors wireline services over the wireless services consumers are choosing more and more over landlines for economic and other benefits.

Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural

consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available. This is a very important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our very rural state. Without continued support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided services and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural South Carolina, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. I believe much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Please 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.

The FCC's rule making has always impressed and satisfied me, to the extent I've understood the complex, rapidly evolving, even revolutionary, issues with which it deals. Consequently I am confident it will consider these facts as it reforms the existing fund, and find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high cost areas rather than by targeting cost reductions at wireless providers. However, FCC rulemaking includes the views of the consumers and public safety communications professionals, so I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,

James W. Rion

SC State E9-1-1 Project Manager

May 6, 2007

Washington, D.C.
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274
Fax: 202-228-2183

Re: wireless in Gulf County

Dear Senator Nelson:

The original purpose of the Universal Service Fund is to offset the cost of building communications networks in high cost, low- income rural areas. If reforms are made to the USF, it should not be made at the expense of citizens living in less populated areas.

Last week's recommendation to the FCC, by the Federal State joint board on USF to cap funding for wireless to 2006 levels will be a major step back for Gulf County. We already contend with limited or no cell service between Highway 386 and the county line or basically the entire middle of our county.

I am the 911 coordinator for Gulf County. This is a public safety issue for callers needing medical services who can't get a signal to call for help. It is also problematic for our responders who sometimes can not communicate while out on a call.

Sincerely,

Ben Guthrie, ENP
Gulf County 911 coordinator

CC: Lisa Polak Edgar, Florida Public Service Commission



FRANK SCROGGINS
LAFAYETTE COUNTY JUDGE

1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE - LEWISVILLE, ARKANSAS 71845 - PHONE (870) 921-4858

May 31, 2007

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I am contacting you to express my opposition to this unfair, arbitrary proposal. While such an approach may provide a "quick-fix" leading to the rapid elimination of fund growth, it would also result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers. Rural consumers want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, economic development, business and personal needs that are equally important to them as they are to urban consumers. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund. 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?

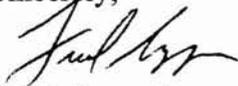
Consumers in rural parts of Arkansas are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service. Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available. This is a very important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our very rural state. Without continued support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural Arkansas, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Please 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 respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,



Frank Scroggins
Lafayette County Judge

ALLEN C. HOLDER²
DIRECTOR

Lincoln
COUNTY - 911
COMMUNICATIONS

911 Marconi Drive • West Hamlin, WV 25571
www.e911.org

304-824-3443
EMERGENCY 911
FAX 304-824-3342
E-Mail: allen.holder@e911.org

May 31, 2007

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

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Consumers in rural parts of West Virginia are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service. Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available. This is a very important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our very rural state. Without continued support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist.

Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural West Virginia, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Please 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 respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,



Allen C. Holder/Director
ENP



Stanley E. Reed

President

June 5, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation with over 230,000 member families is the state's largest advocacy organization for rural Arkansans. As such, we feel it important to our membership that we provide input into the proposal by the Federal-State Joint Review Board of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that would cap subsidies to wireless carriers from the Universal Service Fund (USF).

A high percentage of our members are farmers and ranchers who rely on the availability and convenience of wireless communications to conduct their business. Continued development of infrastructure for wireless communications is extremely important to our members who operate in rural areas which are naturally higher cost service areas. It is our understanding that infrastructure development in these areas is the primary purpose for which the USF was established.

We understand the need for the FCC to reform the entire USF program but we strongly support continuation of the USF to maintain affordable communication services in rural America, in general, and rural Arkansas specifically. We do not feel that capping payments to wireless service providers while determining reform measures is the answer, especially when one considers the fact that wireless consumers will continue to contribute to the fund.

Agriculture is our state's largest industry. Impacting the ability of our state's agriculture producers to have access to the latest wireless network, and the ever-changing applications that come with that technology, would hamper our state's most significant economic engine.

Again, please note our strong opposition to the proposal to cap payments from the USF for wireless service providers. We encourage the FCC not to implement the proposed caps on the wireless industry. I appreciate the opportunity to express the concerns of our organization on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley E. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "R".

Stanley E. Reed
President

cc: Senator Blanche Lincoln
Senator Mark Pryor



ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT

Administrators of New Orleans' 9-1-1 System

June 5, 2007

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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Orleans Parish Medical Society

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N. O. Emergency Preparedness

Kevin E. Stephens, MD, JD, Director
N. O. Department of Health

Dwayne Thomas, MD, CEO
Medical Center of Louisiana

Dan Gilbert, J.D.
Interim Executive Director

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

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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?

Consumers in rural parts of Louisiana are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service. Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to



ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT

Administrators of New Orleans' 9-1-1 System

work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available. This is a very important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our very rural state. Without continued support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural Louisiana, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Please 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.

DAN GILBERT

Executive Director (Interim)
Orleans Parish Communication District
100 City Park Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119
Cell: 504-931-9742
Facsimile: 504-671-3911



JERRY HUNTON
County Judge

280 North College, Suite 500
Fayetteville, AR 72701

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

June 5, 2007

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

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Kevin J. Martin
Page 2

June 5, 2007

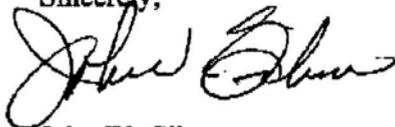
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I respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high-cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,



John W. Gibson
County Administrator

JWG:va

cc: Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
cc: Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
cc: Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
cc: Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner



Representative Harold J. Brubaker
North Carolina General Assembly
Legislative Building, Room 1229
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096
78th District

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, 1995-1999

TELEPHONE: (919) 715-4946

FAX: (919) 715-4947

EMAIL: BRUB@NCLEG.NET

HOME ADDRESS: 215 BACK CREEK CHURCH ROAD
ASHEBORO, NC 27203

COMMITTEES:

PUBLIC UTILITIES - CHAIRMAN
ETHICS
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
HEALTH
INSURANCE
RULES, CALENDAR AND OPERATIONS
OF THE HOUSE
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

May 30, 2007

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

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Federal Communications Commission
May 30, 2007
Page -2-

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Sincerely,

Representative Harold J. Brubaker
78th District

HJB/lhc

CC: US Senators and Congressmen from North Carolina

May 22, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Mister Chairman and Commissioners:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I am contacting you to express my opposition to this proposal that I consider unfair and arbitrary. While such an approach may provide a quick-fix leading to the rapid elimination of fund growth, it would also result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers. Rural consumers want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, economic development, and business and personal needs that are equally as important to them as they are to urban consumers. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund. A wireless-only cap appears to be clearly anti-competitive because it singles out wireless technology only. Today, consumers are choosing wireless more and more over landlines. I believe that 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. My understanding is that that is the purpose of the USF?

In my state of South Carolina, consumers in rural parts are no longer content to only have access to traditional wireline telephone service. Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable

safety tool. Without the continued, and greatly needed, support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they presently do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural South Carolina, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Please 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. However, 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 respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to seek competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much needed services in rural areas. You could possibly do so by targeting funds to high cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,

Bill Sandifer
Member, SC House of Representatives
Chairman, Public Utilities Sub-Committee

CC: South Carolina US Senators and Congressmen.



Voice / Fax: (602) 254-5887
atic@researchedge.com
PO Box 1119 Tempe, AZ 85280
www.arizonatele.com/atic

ARIZONA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION COUNCIL

www.arizonatele.com/atic/

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

[Transmitted by email]

RE: WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing you on behalf of the board members of the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council (ATIC).

We, the ATIC Board, concur with the recommendation from The Honorable Senator John McCain from Arizona and his colleagues that an overall CAP needs to be placed on the Universal Service Fund (USF). Such an overall CAP can provide necessary time to study and revamp USF allocations for modern realities. We further urge the Joint Board and the Commission efforts to revamp the USF to include broadband infrastructure development. Additionally, to ensure a level playing field, we agree with Senator McCain that "We do not support any plan that would cap only one select group of providers but not others, as we believe such a fix would unfairly skew the marketplace."

The ATIC Board strongly feels that extending the CAP down to each State, based on past state-level allocations, would provide an unfair advantage to those states that have acquired large sums from the USF in the past and would also place undue restraint on states that have a population growing at a higher rate with a greater need for USF funds.

We further suggest that, if it is determined that a state-level CAP must be assigned, each state CAP should strongly factor the relative on-going growth rate of that state. As such, an overall CAP could be pro-rated to each state based on the state's relative base-population and growth rate (per Census data, especially in rural areas). We believe such an approach more fairly focuses to the telecommunications needs of unserved and underserved communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Keeling".

Michael C. Keeling
Chairman of the Board
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council

Kevin Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin:

I recently read an editorial in the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star which stated that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed capping the amount of subsidies paid to cell phone companies to improve service in rural parts of the United States.

I am a community activist who recently lead a petition in southeast Nebraska that quickly resulted in the names, addresses, and cell phone numbers of nearly 1400 frustrated Alltel customers in our area. We are frustrated because we pay the same amount for our cell phones that customers in the city pay, yet the reception in our area has become sporadic at best, and nonexistent at its worst. And now the FCC wants to cap the cell phone subsidies?

Those of us who live in rural areas need and deserve reliable cell phone service. But most importantly, we pay the same price for our cell service as residents of metropolitan areas. In addition, we are charged the same surcharge on our cell bills - a surcharge for the specific purpose of improving service in rural areas. It is my understanding that, without the federal subsidies, updating cell service in rural areas would be cost-prohibitive.

First and foremost, it is only fair that the people in rural areas get what we pay for. But that fact aside, people in rural areas need reliable cell phone service as much - if not MORE than - city residents. Why? Because if someone in a city has car trouble or has an emergency, he or she is almost always within walking distance of a telephone. In rural areas, we could walk for miles without ever reaching assistance.

Alltel Wireless answered our petition for better service by making a verbal commitment to build a new tower in Falls City, Nebraska in 2007. It is my understanding that this commitment would not have been possible without the federal subsidies that it received.

We in the rural communities pay our cell phone bills, so we expect, and quite frankly we deserve, the service. The cell phone industry is growing by leaps and bounds. If subsidies are necessary so rural areas can keep up with our changing world, then we need the subsidies. Residents of rural America need - and pay for-- RELIABLE cell phone service. It is only fair that we receive it. Don't forget about us. We need you.

Sincerely,



Lori Gottula
Falls City, NE

Dear Bill:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that I sent to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, as well as our state and U.S. senators. I changed the letters to specifically meet the offices of each official, and thank you for making me aware of this issue.

As I stated in one of my e-mails, I am sending this note because of my belief that, if the federal government is going to give subsidies to improve telecommunications, those subsidies should include a fair percentage to the cell phone companies. Considering the rising number of cell phone users in rural areas, these subsidies are not only warranted, but necessary.

I will consider sending a note, also, to the World Herald and Lincoln Journal Star, but I must first edit it for brevity, and also make sure that my support of this issue will not, in any way, damage the relationship that I have with the local telephone company and its employees.

I have also enclosed in this envelope the communication that I received from an Alltel user about a rebate that has been continually denied to this customer. If you could help her, it would be appreciated.

Thank you so much. I'll keep in touch.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewi Gottlieb". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.



THE
NAVAJO
NATION

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Office Of The President and Vice President

Post Office Box 9000 Window Rock, Arizona 86515 Phone: 928-871-7854 Facsimile: 928-871-7856

Joe Shirley, Jr.
President

May 31, 2007

Bennie Shelly
Vice President

The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
Chairman
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ernest Franklin, Jr.
Executive Director

Dear Joint Board Chairman Tate

Thomacita White
Administrative Assistant

I write to relay the Navajo Nation's opposition to the proposed cap on the USF. First of all, the Navajo Nation thanks you and the members of the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Services for guiding the development of telecommunication services. Your commitment has been extremely important to the economic sustainability of rural America and Indian Country.

Steve L. Grey
Chairperson

Marlene A. Lynch
Vice Chairperson

The growth of the Navajo Nation depends on the wireless telecommunication services provided by the various telecommunication carriers. A cap on wireless technology deployment will impact the tribe in a negative way. The 27,000 square miles of Navajo Nation lands cannot, in the near future, be hardwired to accommodate the growth of its communities. Our schools need wireless distance learning capabilities, our hospitals need telehealth capabilities, the safety of our communities requires E911 capabilities, the sustainability of our economic and community developments need geographical information systems, and we need to maintain an E-government environment to consistently keep up with the growth of our people. Therefore, wireless technology must be implemented without restrictions.

E. Tony Davis
Secretary/Treasurer

Norbert Nez
Commissioner

We currently have limited WiFi systems, two-way satellite systems, point to point microwave systems, and point to multi-point communications systems to assist in *our* current growth. A majority of these systems were developed and sustained with the Federal Universal Service Fund. The Navajo Nation has moved to a wireless system because of the lengthy process of obtaining rights of ways on federally restricted lands. The development of wireless technology has provided us the ability to overcome the bureaucracy in obtaining rights of way and begin to provide vital services to our people.

Bobby Begaye
Commissioner

Steve Nez
Commissioner

As mentioned, a cap on the financial resources used to enhance the wireless infrastructure will severely impact the Navajo Nation in many ways. The Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers for the Navajo Nation are hampered by the ability to acquire new rights-of-way and therefore can not expand to meet the needs of Navajo communities. Although, this could be a problem, it can be overcome if the local ILECs seek a change. Placing a cap on the wireless providers will limit competition, which in turn will affect the efforts of the ILECs to expand its telecommunication infrastructure on the Navajo Nation. We urge that you reconsider the use of a-cap to address the situation at hand, because we have first hand experience that temporary actions can become long term permanent policies.

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Office Of The President and Vice President

Joe Shirley, Jr.
President

Bennie Shelly,
Vice President

Cont-
May 31, 2007
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman

Ernest Franklin, Jr.
Executive Director

Instead, we ask for better accountability from competitive ETCs on how funds are utilized for the build-out of advanced services in rural regions.

Thomacita White
Administrative Assistant

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider the need to implement an interim cap and that you explore other ways of controlling fund growth without impeding the source of investment in our rural infrastructure that the Navajo Nation so desperately needs.

Steve L. Grey
Chairman

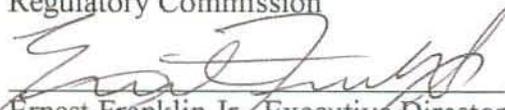
Sincerely,

E. Tony Davis
Secretary/Treasurer



Steve Grey, Chairman
Navajo Nation Telecommunication
Regulatory Commission

Norbert Nez
Commissioner


Ernest Franklin Jr., Executive Director
Navajo Nation Telecommunication
Regulatory Commission

Marlene A. Lynch
Commissioner

Johnny Platero
Commissioner

Cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar
Commissioner Larry S. Landis
Commissioner John D. Blake

Bobby Begaye
Commissioner

Steve Nez
Commissioner

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JODY RICHARDS
20th Legislative District
817 Culpeper Street
Bowling Green Kentucky 42103-0902



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

STATE CAPITOL
Room 309
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-3366

June 5, 2007

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proposed Cap on universal service support

Dear Chairman Martin:

As you know, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service has recommended that the Federal Communications Commission adopt an interim cap on high-cost universal service support for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers. As the Commission considers this proposed cap, I urge you to proceed cautiously to ensure that rural residents in need of expanded access to wireless communications are not adversely affected.

One of the important goals of Universal Service, as mandated by the 1996 Act, is to increase access to advanced telecommunications services to rural consumers at rates comparable to those paid in urban areas. This goal is particularly important for Kentucky where many citizens still reside in rural areas with limited access to state-of-the art wireless and broadband services. Expanding access to high quality and affordable wireless technology is essential to the economic development of our rural areas, as well as safety and mobility of rural residents. Without necessary resources for the expansion and upgrade of rural wireless networks, rural consumers will not be able to enjoy these benefits at the level they deserve.

Chairman Kevin J. Martin

June 5, 2007

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While curbing the rapid growth of the Universal Service fund in order to reduce costs to customers is a legitimate goal, I am concerned that accomplishing this goal through the proposed cap may unfairly burden rural residents. Any cap on universal service support to particular carriers must be carefully evaluated for its impact on rural areas of the country still waiting to enjoy the level of advanced telecommunications now taken for granted by most Americans. I also urge you to take an approach to addressing the rapid growth of the fund which is fair and equitable to all telecommunications providers without regard to the underlying technology. I believe that you will be able to identify proposals which are both competitively neutral and promote the continued expansion and improvement of much needed services in rural areas.

Please contact my office if you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



Jody Richards
Speaker of the House