

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.

I myself live in rural America and don't have the great service like I have when I commute into town. As a mother of two small boys, I rely on my phone when I am out in my rural community to keep in touch in case of emergency. We have very treacherous roads in the winter and I have gone in the ditch several times. In some areas I didn't have service to get the help I needed and end up waiting for someone to come a long. It is almost more important to have optimal service in the rural areas b/c of the small amount of people and cars that are around.

Thank you.