



CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

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June 21, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: 05-337

Dear Chairman Martin:

Founded in 1998, the Center for Individual Freedom (CFIF) is a non-profit organization with more than 250,000 supporters and activists nationwide committed to the preservation of free market and constitutional principles. CFIF works to ensure that those fundamental principles are neither ignored nor forgotten in public policy debates and regulatory matters.

That is why CFIF was pleased to hear that the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service recently recommended an interim cap be placed on the high cost universal service program. Originally intended to provide affordable access to telecommunications services for all consumers, the Fund's recent growth has reached an unnecessary – and unsustainable – level.

The Universal Service fees are truly in danger of becoming nothing more than yet another tax consumers find at the bottom of their phone bills and the Fund's continued growth will soon outpace consumers' ability – and perhaps willingness – to support it. Placing an interim cap on the high cost fund is an important first step in reforming a program that has escalated from \$1.8 billion in 1996 to \$7.2 billion today.

On behalf of CFIF's 250,000 supporter's activists, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on such a critical issue. CFIF encourages the FCC to support the Joint Board recommendation, which is a sound policy decision that is good for all consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. CFIF staff looks forward to working with you in any way possible to support the interim cap.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mazzella
President