

***MINIER COMMUNITY BANK***  
***119 S. Minier Ave., P.O. Box 828***  
***Minier, IL 61759-0828***

June 14, 2007

RE: Rural Wireless Infrastructure Development  
Current Poor Cell Phone Usage

To Whom It May Concern:

Since I have been working in the Minier, Illinois community for the past several years, I have had zero use of my cell phone. Most everyone else living and working in this community shares the same everyday problem.

I would like to share with you a personal story that affected my family because of no wireless service: About 2 ½ years ago, my farmer husband, fell about 12 ft. from the top of a farm tractor onto the top of another farm implement. He was conscious for a short time and fortunately reached and dialed his cell phone. Unfortunately, he deliriously dialed my cell phone, thinking I may be nearby, rather than dialing 911. Because I had not yet left work, I had no cell phone service and my phone didn't even ring. He was alone and not in a place where he was visible from the local road or any neighbors. Shortly after he dialed my cell phone and got no response, he went unconscious from the pain and severe injury he suffered. Some time passed until I left work for the day and drove about 5 miles outside of the city limits of Minier. At this time I checked my cell phone and saw that I had missed a call. Immediately I retrieved the message and realized what had happened. I still had another 20 minute drive home, but at least *outside* the village of Minier I had service and could phone for help for my injured husband.

This is just one example of the day to day unnecessary situations that are faced by the local people in and around the Minier community.

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.

Thank you.

Connie Ary  
Vice President