

"Say NO to Skype - Protect my Wireless Service from Quality and Security Risks"

Dear Chairman Kevin J. Martin:

I am writing to you at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today to ask that you please say no to Skype. Please stand up for the more than 250 million American wireless consumers, and protect the quality of our service, the security of our networks, and the value and convenience we have come to expect. Please do not expose us to quality and service problems.

As you know, Skype -- an Internet communications company owned by the massive e-commerce company eBay -- is currently lobbying FCC Commissioners with a petition for rules that could negatively impact our wireless service in the future. Skype and its supporters want to stop my wireless carrier from providing "free" or discounted phones to customers, like me, who subscribe to their service. While this may make it easier for Skype to compete, I certainly do not want my wireless phone to cost more.

Skype is making a dangerous request of the FCC. As I have read about the issue recently, if granted, this petition would basically force American wireless companies to open their networks to all phones and all applications that work on those phones. While this might sound like a great pro-consumer idea at first, I have learned that it is really anything but. I now know that if approved, Skype's request will risk the service quality, competitive pricing, features and security that I have come to expect from my wireless service. Skype may use consumer-friendly terms to make its case, but in reality, it is simply advancing a business model that would degrade the quality of my wireless service, opening it up to a host of quality and security problems.

Wireless consumers like me know what we want. We ultimately choose our phones, and the applications that work on those phones, based on the quality of service and the value we get from the provider we choose. This ensures that we as wireless consumers get the best call quality and efficiency available. Untested phones and unproven applications may not only impact the quality of service to the user of the device, but because of the way wireless works, they could negatively impact other wireless users in my own area. Now I know that I, for one, and my family as well, cannot imagine our own wireless coverage or usage being impacted negatively by what the guy up the street may be doing with his own wireless device!

As I understand it, the bottom line here is that if you at the FCC do concede to Skype, the company will win big, but American wireless consumers will lose bigger.

But, there is still hope for America's more than 250 million wireless consumers, and Commissioner, I am asking today that you take a pro-consumer stand and make a difference on my behalf. Please tell Skype that its self-serving plan is wrong for the quality and security of wireless networks, and wrong for American wireless consumers.

Sincerely,

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