

4/7/2008 7:36:22 AM - Email Acknowledgement sent to bhappybut@aol.com.

Bhappybut@aol.com wrote on 4/3/2008 3:58:33 PM :

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45 and WC Docket No. 05-337

As a phone consumer, I urge you to put an end to the waste and abuse under the \$7 billion Universal Service Fund (USF) tax phone bills.

I support a cap that would imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on High Cost Support under the Universal Service Fund. I also am in favor of the two pending proposals to reform the manner in which high cost support is distributed. Specifically, I support the use of reverse auctions and limits on "identical support" to reduce the amount of money wasted on USF.

Given the runaway nature of USF spending, I am concerned about the steadily increasing burden of USF tax subsidies. In particular, I object to the long list of ultra-wealthy individuals and publicly traded companies that are gorging themselves on billions of taxpayer dollars that are being served up today at the USF feeding trough.

I am encouraged to read that reverse auctions could reduce USF spending by billions of dollars. If reverse auctions have been used successfully by other countries in these kind of cases, why shouldn't the U.S. do the same thing? I urge the FCC to impose a reverse auction system so that the lowest-cost provider is the only one that gets a tax subsidy in each market.

I also support action to curb abuses under the "identical support" rule, under which wireless carriers collect the same amount per line in subsidies as their landline-based competitors. In my view, the USF should not be subsidizing duplicated carriers in the same market - and phone companies certainly should not be getting paid for costs they never incurred.

Consumers like me are the ones who pay the prices when the FCC allows Universal Service Fund spending to grow in an unchecked fashion. Please rein in the USF by stopping all of the waste and abuse of my phone tax dollars!

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary