

Chugwater Telephone Company
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Chugwater, Wy. 82210

Received & Indexed
OCT 31 2008
FCC Mail Room

October 24, 2008

Commissioner Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner-Martin:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposed order on intermarried compensations and universal service that could drastically alter the cost and availability of monies needed for us who are providing service to the rural area we serve. We are trying to provide broadband, as well. We understand the FCC is scheduled for November 4- Election Day 2008.

Among other things, the proposed apparently includes consumer phone rate increases ranging from several dollars to almost \$10 a month, just to save urban-focused telecom providers nearly \$4 billion annually in access charges. This is somewhat alarming given the challenges that many of my constituents already face from a national credit crisis, increasing food and fuel prices and rising unemployment rates.

At the same time, the proposal would undercut broadband investment by eliminating billions of dollars in funding that rural providers use today to build and maintain broadband infrastructure in rural America. In addition to putting the goal of universal broadband availability further away for many communities, such an approach could lead to additional unemployment and market instability in the telecommunications industry.

Given the gravity of these issues, I am disappointed and worried that the actual order has no been made available for public comment, and that the FCC vote is scheduled on Election Day when members of Congress and their constituents are rightly focused on their civic duties.

While I am aware that the Commission is under a court order to address one narrow issue-the intercarrier rate for calls to dial-up Internet service providers- I want to urge you in the strongest possible terms not to proceed with the other issues in the proposed order before putting it out for public comment. In this way, we can all learn about about the merits and drawbacks of the proposal before it is too late.

Just know that as we try to provide the customer w/ all necessary services, and want to, but you will make it impossible for us to accomplish if you reduce our funding.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Cashner".

Lois Cashner
Chugwater Telephone Company
Customer Base 185 customers
Area to cover 950 Square miles