

This week the FCC is voting on a reform of the Universal Service Fund program. I've paid the Universal Service Charge forever and I can't get usable service at my home in Bushkill, PA (570 588 6715). There is no touch tone service available, there is no DSL, the line is so ancient that even dial up modems crash after a few minutes - if they connect at all. It is apparent that the Universal Service Charge only took my money and never returned anything to improve my service.

I agree with the agency that the program's goals are noble - but outdated - and that the agency must find a way to funnel its resources toward building broadband networks rather than phone lines - especially for my pitiful case.

However, the rules proposed in the industry-authored "ABC plan" would do little to promote the public interest. They would simply allow phone companies like AT&T and Verizon to extract billions more from consumers with no accountability.

The last thing I need is more "Service" charge with even less chance of payoff than the ZERO payoff I've had until now.

Any new rules that you adopt must require phone companies to justify additional fees before they start taking even more hard-earned money out of our pockets. The Commission must require strong regulatory oversight in exchange for carriers' receiving this ratepayer-funded subsidy.

I can't believe that I live less than 70 miles from New York City and I can't even use the online services that built the Arab Spring in the Middle East. America should be embarrassed.