

This week the FCC is voting on a reform of the Universal Service Fund program. I agree with the agency that the program's goals are noble - but outdated - and that the agency must find a way to funnel its resources toward building broadband networks rather than phone lines.

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.

Local phone companies are losing business because by the time you add on all the fees and surcharges, it adds nearly \$20 to the monthly bill - and it's an expense I no longer wanted, so I got rid of my land line in favor of my cell. Also, the more fees that are added makes internet access through the phone company WAY more expensive than the cable companies, and puts them at a disadvantage. NO MORE FEES!!

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.