

I am sick and tired of Congress subverting true reform, with the result being more fees every time I turn around. Greed Inc. needs to be broken up and reigned in.

I keep voting for representation in Congress, but instead of being represented, those I vote for end up representing the profit margins of corporate donors like AT&T and Verizon with little or no consideration for the public's interests. It should be that senators and representatives author bills. But instead, it has become common practice for corporate lobbyists to author bills. This sort of institutionalized corruption (buying Congress) must stop. The United States is now a de facto corporate nation, rendering our elections shams.

The result, as with banks, is that "reform" is subverted in order to line the pocket books of corporate special interests (to be clear, I don't mean non-profits like environmental and humanitarian organizations).

Congress has, therein, rendered itself as "quaint" as the Geneva Conventions (by allowing itself to be bought and paid for by corporations). So much so that the word "ethics" may as well be stricken from dictionaries.

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 I agree with the agency that the program's goals are noble - but outdated - and that the agency must find a way to funnel its resources toward building broadband networks rather than phone lines.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

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.

If you want to give more fuel to Occupy Wall St., which I support (given mass government collusion with corporations), then go ahead and let AT&T and Verizon run crazy with fees. The people is reaching a breaking point, if you haven't noticed.