

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 I agree with the agency that the program's goals are noble - but outdated - and that the agency must find a way to funnel its resources toward building broadband networks rather than phone lines.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

Stop making oligopolies richer and force these phone companies to comply with your regulations, not just walk away with a promise of doing good. It is bad enough that AT&T was able to promise the US cheap \$15 a month internet and prevent anyone from ever signing up for it. Please take action against the major phone companies - they are big enough.