

If there's a way for telcos to get into the pockets of citizens, they'll find it.

Look, modernizing our communications systems is a good idea. But the FCC -- in voting on a reform of the Universal Service Fund program -- is p\*\*\*ing up a rope if it wants us customers to contribute to outdated phonelines rather than in building broadband networks.

Once again, the industry's proposal -- the so-called "ABC plan"-- does not have my interests in mind. That means that phone like AT&T and Verizon would get to extract billions more from my pockets with no accountability.

If the FCC is not a regulatory commission, then let's just put that on the table and tell us all to take a hike. Or do what your mandate says and require phone companies to justify additional fees before they start taking even more hard-earned money out of our pockets.

If the Commission can't or won't require strong regulatory oversight in exchange for carriers' receiving this ratepayer-funded subsidy, then perhaps it's time we citizens (consumers) started divvying up our responsibilities among advocacy groups who will fight tooth and nail on our behalf.