

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 I agree with the agency that the program's goals are noble - but outdated - and that the agency must find a way to funnel its resources toward building broadband networks rather than phone lines.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

I am old enough to remember when people just paid for the minutes used; there were no crazy plans with minimum minute amounts, etc. The same with tv; you had a tv and an antenna and advertisements paid for the programming. I do not have, nor do I support cable tv, it's just another ripoff.

Therefore I oppose this "universal fee" there doesn't seem to be any need for it other than misusing it for landlines as opposed to broadbands. Also we are very much overcharged already both for most telephone plans and certainly for internet service. I can do without cable tv perhaps i can do without these overpriced services as well.

People are banding together against Bank of America's ridiculous fees and i believe that is just the beginning. We are tired of being exploited!