

This week the FCC is voting on a reform of the Universal Service Fund program. The FCC should not be charging or specifying fees to provide services to anyone. This is just another federal tax levied by unelected officials to subsidize corporations and is unconstitutional.

Regardless, 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.

The USF should be abolished and the government should return all USF fees to the American citizens. Market forces will provide phone/broadband services for those that want them. No more new rules should be adopted, in fact there should be repeal of existing rules instead. Any new rules that you do adopt must require phone companies to justify additional fees and must require strict accountability for how the funds are spent, in exchange for carriers' receiving this ratepayer-funded subsidy.

Sincerely,

William R. Beaulieu