

I urge the Federal Communications Commission's Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service to implement and enforce pro consumer, pro competitive policies that protect and promote universal service for basic telephone and broadband service. As such universal service is being threatened for basic traditional wire-line telephone service by AT&T Inc., and Verizon Communications Inc., which are seeking to force users on to their more expensive wireless services by discontinuing wire-line services. In fact Verizon is even threatening universal service for basic broadband via DSL as it is abandoning quality DSL service and requiring its wire-line customers accept bundled Fios services which it is refusing to expand any further since striking anti-competitive marketing agreements with SpectrumCo LLC (a consortium of cable companies they are buying wireless spectrum from) and Cox Communications. I have written to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission about a proposal from CenturyLink that state regulators should remove rules requiring they offer a free month of service when they fail to repair service when its down within a window of 24-48 hours. In my comments I have mentioned the dirty, underhanded things CenturyLink is doing in my state of Arizona and how the PUC should investigate those concerns before ever entertaining or honoring CenturyLink's request.