

Last year AT&T paid no federal taxes and CEO Randall Stephenson even qualified for a tax refund thanks to the Bush era tax cuts and the F.C.C. wants to impose new taxes on broadband subscribers and consumers using text-messaging services. This is outrageous and unfair for consumers. AT&T by the way is stockpiling excess 700 MHz spectrum from Qualcomm and a firm called 700 MHz LLC even as they fortunately were denied their merger with T-Mobile USA last year. We need new interoperability rules in the 700 MHz band for carriers with 4G LTE services and interoperability now in the AWS band especially since the Verizon Cable deals have been approved.

Unfortunately, the Commission has embraced new taxes on broadband services and text messages to pay for the new Connect America Fund created by reforming the Universal Service Fund. You want to expand broadband then require line sharing of big cable and phone companies DSL and cable broadband offerings with smaller providers (make broadband competitive like dial-up) I stand with Teletruth, Free Press and other groups in urging the Commission uphold the public interest.

In fact we need tough regulatory conditions on both the marketing agreements between Verizon Wireless, the cable consortium SpectrumCo and cable company Cox Communications and on the spectrum license transfer. Ideally the marketing agreements should have been denied or had even stronger conditions placed on them than DOJ and the FCC put in place to protect wire-line and wireless competition.

I therefore object to efforts to impose new taxes on broadband service and text messages by the U.S. Government. Instead of allowing big telecoms to pass off the

cost to consumers the Commission should require these corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. Allowing them to overcharge us for phone or broadband Internet service to supposedly fund universal service is outrageous. We also need to ensure Network Neutrality protections of nondiscrimination for an Open Internet apply not just to copper DSL and cable modem delivered broadband services but fiber to the node and fiber to the home broadband services including AT&T's U-Verse Internet and Verizon Communication's FIOS Internet which they must also be required to offer to customers just wanting standard Internet (basic broadband service).

Also please deny CenturyLink's waiver request to get an exemption from the rules for CAF and their suggestion that the rules be changed in their favor. We need the Commission to protect the Open Internet and that means sanctioning AT&T's plan to charge more for FaceTime over it's cellular network in addition to ripping their toll free data plans requiring content providers pay for users exceeding AT&T's artificial data caps.

Finally, the Commission should require cable companies to likewise also offer basic broadband service the way it has always required big telecoms to do and deny applications by AT&T, Comcast and Verizon to discontinue basic telecommunications services. Thanks for accepting my comments.