

Any one living in the US will say, it is now necessary to have broadband in order to fully function in the economy and society. Broadband is now a necessity rather than a luxury. The Connect America Fund is seeking to provide broadband services to the 18 million Americans living in rural areas, who still do not have access to broadband services, and aims to connect 7 million unserved rural Americans to broadband in six years, and puts the nation on a path to connect all 19 million unserved residents by 2020. This is a rather large task. If the CAF succeeds, consumers in both urban and rural areas will benefit tremendously from the reform. I feel as though the Connect America Fund will be an essential driving force needed to boost economic growth in the US. By expanding access to broadband, a larger number of individuals will have access to the online marketplace, which will in turn create additional jobs and business opportunities across the country.

As a consumer, what concerns me the most regarding the CAF is the price I will have to pay for broadband services. It seems as though every time a major change has been brought to the table regarding communications, prices have risen for service. For example, cell phone service and cable service after the Communications Act of 1996.

The document announcing the kickoff for the CAF states, "Key reforms allowed Connect America to expand support to both broadband and voice without increasing universal service fees on consumers and businesses", and also claims the reforms have improved fiscal responsibility and accountability. If this remains true within the coming years, the CAF would immensely benefit the American public. In theory, the CAF seems to be a very promising plan, but only if you all, the FCC, reach the goals placed for America and its residents.