

I oppose any effort by AT&T or Verizon Communications to have federal or state universal service mandates ensuring open and universal access to basic telecommunications services like home phone and yes even copper DSL Internet scrapped. Universal service mandates require them to provide basic phone and/or Internet service (now that USF has been reformed into a Connect America Fund) to everyone even in areas deemed by these companies as unprofitable. Rich or poor all deserve and need the ability to communicate (in emergencies its vital for survival or to help others facing emergency situations) and as such I urge the FCC to reject any proposal to abolish universal service mandates. These telecom giants are now proposing in exchange for building out faster fiber networks to compete with Google Fiber (that's their real motivation for doing this; they are only interested in doing so once Google Fiber launched it's scaring incumbents) and offer better service they should be allowed to end universal service. I support COMPTTEL's Reply Comments filing to Verizon and add these comments of my own to urge the FCC to reject loosening any federal universal service mandates. This type of extortion by the telcos is not right. In areas where Google Fiber is being launched they are going to build fiber anyways.

I remember in 2011 when AT&T wanted to merge with T-Mobile they said they needed T-Mobile to expand 4G LTE service - but they were planning to expand their 4G LTE anyways. Those in areas where Google Fiber is going to launch have to expand and build fiber anyways to remain relevant and compete. The teleco cable cartel should not be doing this.