

Universal Fund

While installing high speed internet in rural schools and libraries, by starting with the schools and libraries near inland waterways the FCC can help many rural small businesses and document savings of multi - millions a year from just one application.

If the FCC would be interest in learning more we could stop by your office but a description follows.

We are river barge people and not communications people. However, Carnegie Mellon University has defined what they see as waterways wi-fi communications needs in a river boat trial which we can review with you. Then Service Corporation can document savings based on wi-fi crowd sourcing and they present only one of many opportunities. Historically river boats have served many rural areas and the rural riverboat wi-fi application that will serve the schools and libraries will help barging.

Our proposal is based on the FCC using and expanding upon the NOAA weather stations and satellites that are already in the FCC targeted rural areas. Thus savings eliminate duplicate efforts and costs. These saving can add to additional expenditures or providing for even greater coverage than initially planned. Why should the FCC duplicate the NOAA weather channel applications and the technology that is already available?

While our wi-fi applications on the weather satellites has some support from some NOAA areas others there are concerned about the loss of jobs even with very large government cost savings.

The riverboat industry is not going to accomplish this wi-fi introduction alone and it seems that only leadership at the FCC with their funding will make all this happen.

Whether the FCC advances the "grand plan" or not it is important that the rural sites along the inland waterways be provided wi-fi that serve the schools and libraries plus the river boats that have long been associated with many targeted rural towns.

It should also be noted that NOAA has this week presented to the industry the use of the AIS (Automatic Identification System) as a management tool for tugs in place of the less expensive Wi-Fi option presented by the FCC.