

Tech Bytes

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U.S. Cellular raps rural subsidy cap

John R. Rooney, U.S. Cellular's chief executive officer said last week's decision by the Federal Communications Commission to cap the Universal Service Fund for wireless carriers "represent(s) a turn-of-the-clock back to an era of monopoly providers and inadequate service."

The Universal Service Fund was created to provide subsidies and help carriers provide telephone service to rural Americans. But wireless carriers have begun to receive a growing share of the fund, which has alarmed the traditional wireline providers.

"By proposing to cap USF support to wireless carriers, the Joint Board would deprive rural America of hundreds of millions of dollars in new wireless investment," Rooney said.