

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515  
March 25, 2016

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received & inspected  
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FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket 11-42, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, WC Docket 09-197.*

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We the undersigned are writing concerning the orders posted for the open meeting of the FCC on March 31, 2016 regarding the Lifeline program. This order will give Lifeline carriers the option of going either to the state or to the FCC for an eligibility designation. We are concerned that the orders ignore the process set out in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 214(e), which mandates that the States conduct such designations.

State regulatory commissions are currently charged with ferreting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. As an example, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, not the FCC, first identified fraudulent funding requests from Icon Telecom. Due to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's oversight, Icon relinquished its ability to obtain federal Lifeline support.

States, including our state of Oklahoma, have strong checks and balances in place to ensure nefarious wireline and wireless providers do not have access to Lifeline support. The proposed FCC orders would undo this system of checks and balances, and would limit state's rights as laid out in current law.

We strongly urge the FCC to reject these proposals, and ensure that we stand up for state's rights. Ninety public utility commissioners have urged the FCC to reject these proposals. We agree that removing the state role would only result in additional fraud and abuse.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to reject these proposals, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Steve Russell  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress