**Legislative Action**

This is a For Your Information issue brief. It will inform you about a recent fee increase that does not require your approval.

**Universal Telecommunication Service Support Fund**

This program is designed to insure that all Utahns have access to affordable telephone service. This program subsidizes what would be high cost telephone service. Its revenues come from a surcharge on retail telephone bills. Currently, funds are used to reduce local monthly subscriber and state network interconnection charges for 13 local exchange telephone carriers servicing rural communities.

**Increase in Fees**

In January, 2004, the surcharge rate was changed from .34 percent to .9 percent on intra-state retail revenue.

**Fund Balances**

According to servicing companies data and statistics obtained by the Federal Communications Commission, the telephone subscribership in rural Utah remains nearly equal to Wasatch Front rate.