



Press Statement

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MMTC Concerned About 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' Universal Service Fund Decision

WASHINGTON, DC (July 26, 2024): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is greatly concerned about the en banc decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in *Consumers' Research v. FCC* finding the nearly 30-year-old Universal Service Fund unconstitutional. Unfortunately, this Court decided to issue an Opinion that runs contrary to two Circuit courts—the 6th and 11th—that recently found the Universal Service Fund (USF) to be constitutional.

MMTC President and CEO Robert Branson stated that “MMTC has long fought to close the digital divide. This decision will have a profound detrimental impact on the ability of this nation to close that divide and will severely hurt families in rural and urban communities that have come to rely upon the USF. MMTC will be looking to work with other organizations on next steps to restore the USF. It is more critical now than ever that the Congress, FCC, and the Court reverse this action.”

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide on behalf of its members and constituents, including owners of radio and television broadcast stations, programmers, prospective station owners, and others involved in the TMT industries. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. MMTC's vision is to achieve a fully connected, educated, healthy, and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit MMTC's website [here](#).