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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

From my study of broadband access it is clear there is no genuine competition. Our local independent companies (such as LMI.net in Berkeley) are struggling to survive. Although I live in a large urban area, because I live on a hill at the edge of the county, we effectively have one high speed internet provider. Many of my relatives live in rural areas where one high speed provider is the only option. For the past 25 years I've been following the situation locally, as well as nationally, and am staying informed.

The arrival of high speed 5G mobile networks is not going to alleviate the situation any time soon. And I see no reason that 5G networks will provide more competition, indeed I expect to see less competition because of the huge initial costs to deploy 5G networks.

I believe the FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, is in favor of competition, but actual competition needs more than one or two strong players.

Thank you.

Paul Pederson