



Via ECFS

May 18, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, Docket No. 18-141*

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Northwest Telecommunications Association ("NWTA")¹ hereby supports, and urges the Commission to grant, motions for extension of time submitted by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("NARUC"), the California Association of Competitive Telecommunications Companies ("CALTEL") and INCOMPAS (collectively "Motions"), in the above-reference proceeding. NWTA represents facilities-based carriers providing local exchange, interexchange, interconnected voice over Internet protocol and broadband services as well as Internet Service Providers that serve throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. NWTA members, many of whom serve more rural less densely populated communities with exceptionally limited competitive alternatives, and their subscribers potentially stand to be severely impacted by the outcome of this proceeding.

NWTA agrees with the CALTEL, INCOMPAS, and NARUC as well as the Midwest Association of Competitive Communications and Granite Telecommunications, LLC that an extension of time is necessary to support development of a more complete, factual, record in light of the gravity of issues raised by USTelecom. NWTA respectfully urges the Commission to grant the Motions.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ NWTA serves to strengthen the competitive local exchange carriers in the Pacific Northwest. Carrier members include CoastCom, Inc., ComSpan, Douglas Fast Net, FatBeam, Gorge.net, Hunter Communications, Origin Networks, LS Networks Mammoth Networks, MINET, Priority One Telecommunications, and Windwave Communications.