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Jun 17th 2019

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,

US Telecom has petitioned you to dismantle the consumer protections in the 1996 Telecommunications Act with the claim that "no consumers" rely on carriers that use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements. They, of course, know that this is a bald-faced lie. Of course there are such carriers and such customers. I am one. I have used an alternative provider for years, as have thousands of my friends and neighbors. There are many reasons that I use such a carrier instead of one of the giant US Telecom members, but in the end, the important reason is that competition is healthy for the economy, promotes innovation and drives down costs for consumers and producers alike, and is a fundamental requirement for a capitalist economic system to flourish. Who can think it would be better for the US to have a telecommunications infrastructure more like China or more like Russia, just so that shareholders of ATT and Comcast can make a few extra pennies in stock dividends? Surely selling future generations down the river is not the prescription for making America great again!

As an advocate for good old American Capitalism and a customer who would instantly be adversely affected by such an act, I implore you to simply shelve the US Telecom petition. Take the easy route, and simply do nothing. Leave the status quo as it is. It's easier and better for everyone, your own children's children included.

Thank you.

Anthony Apodaca