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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,

As you know, USTelecom, the trade association which represents some of the nations largest incumbent carriers (such as AT&T, Verizon, and others) has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

You are now considering this issue, and will soon decide on the fate of competing telecom carriers like Sonic -- which is the carrier in my town that we use. Your decision will determine whether to cater to incumbent providers and cut off competitive access, limiting MY ability to choose Sonic as my carrier.

USTelecom are claiming that residential consumers (thats me) will not be affected, because there are no carriers (e.g. like Sonic!) who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace. NOT TRUE!!

A competitive market ensures that consumers (like me!) will have access to better prices. Incumbent carriers want to change that, and limit my access to choose the best possible service at the best possible price (like Sonic, who i love as a provider!! I do mean love!). We live in a semi - rural area and Sonic takes great care of us.

This also means SONIC would be limited in their ability to deploy more fiber; essentially, Sonic would be hindered from providing their customers with the most innovative services out there. Which we want.

I quit AT&T because they had horrible customer service. I love Sonic because they have great pricing and great customer service. That is what competitive market is all about-- the consumers RIGHT TO CHOOSE!

Please don't make us go back to the dark ages...

Local broadband providers are KEY and CRITICAL. Our house, schoolwork, and my business rely on this.

Thank you.

Laela French