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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,

We do exist. We are consumers, in this case telephone users, who use DSL phone and internet services provided by a third-party carrier leasing AT&T wires. It is absurd to claim or pretend that we and smaller carriers do not exist. We fled AT&T's callousness; now, with the same copper wires, we receive better service than ever before. At our home in another state, we have been subjected to extortionate price increases because the area is dominated by only 2 carriers with no minors to keep them in check. To eliminate alternatives, is to grant monopolies. Ma Bell was broken up in the name of competition. What is the FCC doing now?

The copper wire infrastructure is a great asset to the country. It should not be allowed to be ripped out or to deteriorate. Think of the railroads, the building blocks of the nation. The car companies paid and bribed to have rail lines ripped out to force road construction and reliance on motor vehicles. Where are we now? We are going back to the rails for cost effectiveness and to protect the environment. Can the lines that were ripped out be replaced now? No, they cannot. The right of way no longer exists. Has nothing been learned from past lessons? The copper lines are a great backup system that protects the nation. It is a resource that once lost cannot be replaced.

The responsibility of the FCC is to ensure that the entire nation is properly and equally served. Certain rural areas, considered unprofitable by the majors, are now at risk of being left with no service at all, turning the clock back to the 19th Century.

And why is Government now talking of breaking up the tech giants when it is bolstering and enabling the telecom giants to become every bit as large and controlling?

Thank you for reflecting on these objections.

Paula Pehl