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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,

I believe that competition is the heart of our capitalist economic system. That is why I choose to foster competition wherever possible. I am a customer of CLEC Sonic for both POTS and DSL. (Similarly, I use Consumer Cellular for my mobile phone service.)

My wife owns property in rural Nebraska, where a local independent telephone company is the ONLY source for landline and broadband service.

Despite what USTelecom may claim, I am an example of one of many customers who would indeed be materially affected by any change in the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

The provisions of this act which ensure affordable access to the facilities made possible by the monopoly of the original Bell System, and the subsequent de-facto monopolies of the Baby-Bell LECs remain necessary to ensure continued competition.

I therefore am writing to go on record as a citizen who will, if this regulatory framework is weakened, see higher costs, reduced choice and poorer customer service.

Please DO NOT CHANGE the 1996 Telecommunications Act!

Thank you.

Peter Dessart