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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,

My wife and I have been a customers of Sonic.net for our POTS landline and DSL service for many years. I'm concerned by the supposition that the agreements that allow companies like Sonic to have access to the incumbent networks are unnecessary to support competition. This is simply not true. Without Sonic, we would not have reliable and affordable telephone service nor reliable access to the internet.

We chose Sonic for better pricing and substantially better customer service. AT&T had lied to us multiple times and continued to jack up fees while lobbying for deregulation that allowed them even more flexibility to do so in the future. We miss Pacbell.

We primarily use Sonic for the telephone service, as there is no alternative in our neighborhood to having a copper landline. The wireless carriers do not provide a reliable signal, and we were not comfortable with VOIP since its reliability is limited to the reliability of our broadband connection. In our experience, Comcast broadband (over cable) has proven unreliable, with frequent outages and astounding displays of incompetence when we tried to have problems fixed. Now, with our Sonic.net service, we can fall back on DSL whenever Comcast lets us down, and we have a rock-solid landline for telephone service.

As far as I know, there are no other options where we live. AT&T has tried to sell us U-verse, but refuses to offer us the combination of services we desire without bundling additional services we don't. There is no fiber service in our area, despite the billions in subsidies and tax breaks the both the federal government and the state of California have granted the incumbent telecommunication providers to incentivise them to bring fiber to the curb everywhere.

Local broadband (and telecom) providers, like Sonic, are the only options for families like ours. Note that we do not live in a rural area. We live on the east side of San Francisco bay, two blocks from a major state university. I work in Silicon Valley. And yet, if it weren't for Sonic, we would have no affordable, reliable access to telephone service nor to the internet.

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