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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 support broadband and landline competition because I am able to get better, more economical service through my local independent landline and DSL carrier. In my case this carrier is Sonic based in Santa Rosa, CA. In addition to more responsive and lower cost service, my carrier's values on privacy and sale of information gained by spying on my interactions on the internet are more closely aligned with my own preferences.

I regularly review the offers from the major carriers and I have found nothing to make me want to go back. Plans are complicated with many fine print pitfalls, contracts are required, it's hard to keep up with the rate changes because one must proactively go to their web sites to check for updates, customer service is lousy, marketing is incessant. We are getting too much vertical integration. AT&T's business model, as per their last annual report seems to be to provide content, provide a way for the content to get to the consumer, spy on all of the consumer's interactions with content and the internet, and market all of the resulting data for profit. I find this business model repulsive and am glad to have an alternative. Please don't let the telecom industry associations remove the concepts of common carrier, net neutrality, and competition. The industry seems to be attempting to buy a redefinition or elimination of common carrier. In my opinion the internet, social media, and new technologies are just new ways to do what common carriers did so they should be regulated the same.

I use a competitive landline phone and DSL provider. Fiber is not available in my area from a company I am willing to patronize. Competitive providers exist. As long as they are willing to pay a FAIR price for facilities of major carriers that they need to use they should continue to exist. I do and will patronize them.

Income inequality has become a major problem to the stability of our government. Communication policies that raise prices due to lack of competition or reduce the equal opportunity for smaller businesses or lower income people to reap benefits from the potential equalizing forces of the internet will only make the problem worse. Please don't let the telecommunications industry buy their desired deregulation.

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