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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,

Please understand that the claim being made, that there are no carriers using unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace, is FALSE. I am a happy customer of Sonic.com, a regional provider that I rely on completely for my home internet services, and it fits the definition above. As a freelance instructional designer, I rely on a fast and reliable broadband connection. Similarly, my wife, who teaches state and community college courses online, needs fast, stable, and low-cost access to her institutions' web resources. Both our livelihoods would be significantly affected by the proposed changes to the Telecommunications Act, which are based on the false claim about UNEs.

My high school economics teacher taught me that free market competition is good for consumers and is the American way! The petition that US Telecomm has submitted would only limit competition, leading to higher prices and greater consolidation of the market into the hands of fewer providers. I have had terrible experiences with several of the providers that are US Telecomm members and was overjoyed to find an honest, reliable, and responsive alternative in Sonic. Please don't be influenced by pressure from these giant organizations. Recognize that their petition is based on a false claim, will choke competition, and will squeeze the increasing number of consumers who rely on web connections to earn a wage.

Joe Loree