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Jun 19th 2019

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 understand that USTelecom, the trade association which represents some of the nations largest incumbent carriers (such as AT&T, Verizon, and others) has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. There are many reasons these changes will be detrimental to consumers, most of which I am sure you have heard.

I write today to address one that I suspect may not have been voiced, and that many do not understand. The proposed changes, in my opinion, will have serious negative consequences on competition and ease of entry for the very providers who are today leading the way in development of advanced systems and software for communications over the internet. These smaller enterprises tend to fund their existence with current state product, using that business base to allow them to invest in forward systems, particularly fiber, toward improvement of the entire network. The ability to rely on their relatively small base of existing customers is critically important in successfully launching a continuing expansion of improved services to the public, with customer conversion financially supporting such launches and a continual roll-out program. Without that opportunity to concurrently build a customer base and build an improved system, the companies would never have been able to start up, much less survive. Without these companies, and those that will follow them, we would be facing a monopoly or trust controlled market situation similar to that today being addressed in Congress over the problems of Facebook and others.

At the very least, the changes proposed will severely constrain ease of competitive access and turn a vibrant industry into an oligopoly.

I hope that you will reject the petition, and avoid creating a condition that will then surely end up as an issue for yet another agency or Congress itself.

John McNeill