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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 Federal Communications Commission,

US Telecom, the trade association which represents some of the nation's 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.

I understand that this issue is still under consideration, but that FCC will soon decide on the fate of competing telecom carriers like Sonic, my carrier. More specifically, it would determine whether to cater to large incumbent providers and thus cut off competitive access, limiting my ability to choose Sonic.

US Telecom is claiming that residential consumers would not be affected, because there are no carriers who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace.

USTelecom's claim is false. Sonic's residential subscribers do exist, and members, such as me, would be materially affected. In fact, those effects would be profound; continued access to UNE services is a key part of Sonic's business model for deployment: to provide innovative services for customers with fast, DSL technology, while deploying fiber for more and more members.

Today, one third of Sonic's customers are using their fiber service, but without continued access to copper lines, Sonic would not be able to compete on an even footing. And once fiber networks are built, UNEs are still used they connect from city to city and are the key backhaul for all of Sonic's fiber networks.

A competitive market ensures that consumers have access to better prices. Large incumbent carriers want to change that, and limit my access to choose the best possible service at the best possible price. This also means Sonic would be limited in its ability to deploy more fiber; essentially, Sonic would be hindered from providing its customers with the most innovative services out there.

So, as a residential Sonic customer, I would be materially affected if this petition were to be

granted.

I rely on these services, and I oppose this petition. Telecom competition is very important to me with its access to fast, affordable internet and phone service.

Sincerely,

Elaine Woodruff