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Jun 24th 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,

The FCC is still considering this issue, but will soon decide on the fate of competing telecom carriers like Sonic. More specifically, it will determine whether to cater to incumbent providers and cut off competitive access, limiting my ability to choose Sonic.

In short: US Telecom is falsely claiming there are no carriers who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace. SONIC is one of the carriers they claim do not exist. I am happy SONIC customer in the many years I have been with them have been extremely satisfied with their service. I left ATT&T because of ever increasing and affordable pricing, horrendous customer support and service and frequent errors in calls billed to my phone number. Not once have experienced any of these issues with SONIC.

USTelecom's claim is false. Sonic residential subscribers do exist, and our members 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 like myself!

Today, one third of us are using SONIC'S fiber service, but without continued access to copper lines, SONIC will 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 back-haul for all of SONIC'S fiber networks.

What does all this mean for me and others within the SONIC family of consumers?

A competitive market ensures that consumers will have access to better prices. Incumbent carriers want to change that, and limit my access to choose the best possible service at the best possible price, for me and that is SONIC! This also means they would be limited in their ability to deploy more fiber; essentially, they would be hindered from providing their customers with the most innovative services out there. The FCC is still considering this issue, but will soon decide on the fate of competing telecom carriers like Sonic. More specifically, it will determine whether to cater to incumbent providers and cut off competitive access, limiting my ability to choose Sonic.

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