

Jul 31 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant  
to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and  
Next-Generation Networks**

Dear FCC,

In rural Sonoma County, where I live, my local CLEC i.e. Sonic.NET LLC adds value to the ATT ecosystem by providing an extra layer of local customer support, and local quality control, on ADSL lines that are available to my home. ATT has a bad reputation in rural Sonoma for having very uneven technical and customer support, and Sonic.NET LLC provides a value add to the ILEC CLEC supply chain.

I find it counter intuitive that the federal government would sue ATT and Time Warner trying to block its merger due to vertical integration, yet, at the same time, and in another department i.e the FCC would change the 1996 Telecoms law and allow VERTICAL INTEGRATION.

I have been a customer of Sonic.NET LLC, for 6 years and I would be negatively effected if the 1996 Telecoms Act was changed so that CLEC's where no longer required by law to give access to lease ATT.

Further VERTICAL INTEGRATION in the telecoms space in the USA would be very bad for rural consumers. Raising prices and reducing service.

Our local CLEC Sonic.NET LLC has grown serving the farming community and economy of Sonoma County, California.

Nicholas Roberts

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