



August 14, 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket No. 18-141

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you on behalf of Smith, Fause & McDonald, Inc. (SFMI). SFMI provides low voltage systems design for public and private buildings and campuses throughout California and the nation. We are a Sonic customer, and we urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

Sonic is the provider of our company's high speed internet access, providing us with a 50 Mbps downlink/5 Mbps uplink capacity and 16 public IP's. We use this capacity to host our own email, web and project filesharing servers and to access project file sharing hosts maintained by the project architects and other engineers.

Sonic has been our provider for more than 12 years. As local business, we can count on being able to readily reach them in the event of a problem and have them respond immediately without having to navigate layers of bureaucracy and multiple offshore sub-contractors used by the major alternative providers. Their high reliability, ability to flexibly provide customized service offerings to match our requirements and commitment to customer service has ensured that we keep our account with them.

We would not want to be in a position where our only service offering was from one or two incumbent monopoly providers, with their inflexible service offerings and non-responsive customer service. As communications engineers, we frequently have to deal with the major carriers on behalf of our clients and our experience reinforces our decision to remain with Sonic.

Please do not end the ability of providers like Sonic to offer an alternative to the incumbent providers.

Sincerely
Smith, Fause & McDonald, Inc.

Peter A. McDonald, President