



Integrated Research Associates, LLC.  
4050 Redwood Highway, Suite E  
San Rafael, California, USA  
Tel: 011-1-415-407-0888  
Fax: 011-1-415-276-4526  
Email: [katharine.bossart@gmail.com](mailto:katharine.bossart@gmail.com)  
[ceo@IntegratedResearchAssociates.com](mailto:ceo@IntegratedResearchAssociates.com)

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 Integrated Research Associates, LLC. Our company is a small biotechnology company that creates and designs novel therapeutics for emerging viruses. We are a Sonic customer, and we urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

We purchase phone and broadband internet services from Sonic and both are integral to the success of our business. We have temperature probes for scientific equipment as well as live cameras that rely on our broadband to send and receive data from our data loggers and cameras. These systems are monitored 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week as any deviation requires immediate attention. Sonic has the most reliable broadband network which has been an asset to our company. Further, our asymmetrical 86 Mbps download and 18 Mbps upload speeds are more than adequate for our company needs.

We chose Sonic initially because of their fantastic customer service, the speed and the price. As a small business, we really appreciate the customer care Sonic provides as a small business. Further, we appreciate that Sonic believes in net neutrality and will continue to honor the practice of net neutrality.

If Sonic was not able to provide service anymore our costs would increase significantly. Further, and importantly, the reliability of our network would decrease significantly and consequently, we would not have accurate monitoring of our scientific equipment which would be detrimental to our research and development.

We urge you not to end the ability of providers like Sonic to offer an alternative to the incumbent providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharine Bossart".

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Katharine Bossart, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Integrated Research Associates, LLC