

Jan Plumb  
160 FLAT WOODS RD  
LEXINGTON VA 24450

Aug 16th 2018

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,

I am writing to urge you to keep the all the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act in place.

I want let you know that it is important and critical that local broadband providers remain in business and internet service isn't just left to the big telephone companies.

Rockbridge Global Village, my local internet service provider, has connected numerous homes in Rockbridge County, Virginia, at reasonable rates. Service to areas that Big Telecom won't even touch! This is our ONLY link, our only option, to the Internet!

Service provided by my independent provider is NOT subsidized by the federal government. Why is Century Link receiving subsidies if it's not providing service to rural areas?

Eliminating competition will undoubtedly lead to increased rates. Increases that could hurt all of us, particularly schools, hospitals, community services.

We can NOT allow Internet service be left to the Big Telecoms! There needs to be competition or vast areas of rural America will be left without broadband service! And even if the telephone companies started providing service, we're going to be held hostage because there is no other choice for service!

Please! Do not succumb to the strong arming of the Big Telecoms! Keep all provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act in place and keep independent internet service providers in business!

Thank you!

Jan Plumb