

Timothy Lubin
433 Spring Farm Road
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,

The three largest telephone companies in the country AT&T, Verizon, and Century Link have used their lobbying arm USTA to petition you to remove provisions of the 1996 Telecommunication Act which was put in place to ensure healthy competition in the internet market. Their argument is blatantly false. They argue that keeping these provisions in place is slowing down deployment of fiber to the homes throughout the country, but the small local provider in my rural Virginia area (Rockbridge Global Village) has laid a lot of new fiber optic cable in the last few years. Giving the biggest companies legal leverage to consolidate the service market suppresses competition in the market and ultimately harms consumers the public interest you are supposed to protect.

We very strongly call on you to keep retain the 1996 Telecommunication Act's protection of a competitive market intact.

Timothy Lubin