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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,

My ISP is a very small, local company, Sonic. They connected me first with DSL technology over unbundled AT&T copper lines, and now they are building their own gigabit fiber network to as many locations as quickly as they can. Today, one third of Sonic customers are connected with Sonic fiber. That's how the 1996 Telecommunications Act is supposed to work: enabling competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment.

But AT&T and their trade association, US Telecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allowed Sonic to grow, expand fiber deployment, and compete. Without access to this infrastructure, Sonic is at risk of losing access to a huge portion of their customer base, for instance leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers.

Thanks to competitive telecommunication laws, Sonic has been able to build and connect tens of thousands of members on our own fiber network. But, that's only a portion of their customer base. They need continued access to copper as a bridge to fiber so that they can get me, and everyone else, connected to the fastest, most affordable internet available in our county.

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