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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,

I have chosen sonic.net, a competitive provider, as my internet provider for the past 10 years for many reasons:

- 1) AT& T and Comcast do not offer me a simple plan that only includes broad band internet access and telephone service for a competitive price that I can afford. Living in CA, earth quake country, having a land line can be essential for stable telephone service when the earth moves since cell towers fall down.
- 2) Sonic.net DOES OFFER the type of plan that I need at a reasonable rate. With AT&T or Comcast I would have been 'forced' to pay way more money for a bundle of services that I do not need like cable when I do not watch television .
- 3)Now that I am retired and on a fixed income it is EVEN MORE important to be able to obtain broadband services from a competitive provider that are reasonably priced
- 4) Sonic.net, based in Santa Rosa CA, provides JOBS to people in their area, which is semi-rural. Support of companies like Sonic.net that are doing the 'right thing' i.e. hiring US citizens with a livable wage is critical to economic development in rural areas.
- 5) Sonic.net does not 'off shore' their support like companies such as AT&T and Comcast. I am so happy with their support because I can talk to a technician in Santa Rosa, CA who listens to me and provides me immediate service. Plus I don't even have to wait that long to get someone on the phone to help me. The horror stories from my friends 'attempting' to get support from AT&T or Comcast are legion. My friends waste so much time....just attempting to explain what they need and then do not get quality service.

The US economy is robust because we support competition. It is one of the cornerstones of our democracy and capitalistic system. Small broadband competitive businesses like Sonic.net should be supported by the FAA, not penalized. This encourages competition among broad band providers which we sorely need to level the playing field to provide Americans with choices. That is one

reason why it is a BAD IDEA to restrict our choices to just two mega broadband providers.

Using broadband is critical to my life in the 21st century. And the ability to purchase broadband services at a reasonable rate is also critical for a retired person. I rely on broadband every day to get information, send e-mails, to download media, listen to music. It is an integral part of the fabric of my life.

Please FCC DO NOT make changes that will result in price hikes for these competitive broadband providers such as Sonic.net.

Please be 'responsible' and 'responsive' to the American people by not only allowing, but encouraging, competition among broadband providers. It is the American thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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