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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,

Quite a few years ago, we were customers of AT&T. This was around the time they were offering U-verse. When we contacted them to get on the U-verse bandwagon, they told us that because we were existing customers, we were not eligible for the higher speeds of 12 megabytes. At the time we were getting around 12 to 15 megabytes. We asked them why, and they told us because of the capacity of the existing copper wire we would only be able to receive up to 6 megabytes. We said that's alright, 6 megabytes is better than the 1.2 to 1.5 that we were getting. (There was a lot of stuttering when streaming at that rate). They said that they couldn't offer anything lower than the 12 megabyte.

So we were essentially cut off from being able to access the higher speeds.

At that time I had heard about Sonic.net and how they were a good local company and in terms of customer service, were compassionate. After many years of service and wrangling with AT&T, Sonic was a breath of fresh air. Very personable and responsible. Issues were dealt with fast and always within a phone call. Sonic promised an increase in speed and we were receiving 3.5 to 4 megabytes right off the bat. They kept fine tuning and for the last couple of years we have been getting pretty consistent 5.5 to 6 megabytes. Sonic was able to offer something that AT&T, because of their greed and lust for dominance in the market, were not willing to offer.

Recently Sonic has been installing fibre optics in our neighborhood and we are looking forward to this improved service (at NO EXTRA COST to us as existing customers).

AT&T has allowed Sonic to feed on their breadcrumbs for years. Meanwhile Sonic has built and expanded and improved on that infrastructure only to have AT&T step in and refuse that last 1/2 mile or less of copper. To what end?..... DOMINANCE.

Yes, I support competition in the market place, and I support Sonics effort to subsist in the broadband market. I support a healthy competitive market especially when AT&T was not willing to offer that which Sonic could.

Please consider voting to block AT&T's efforts to undermine a healthy competitive atmosphere. Stop their unnecessary domineering tactics. There is enough for everyone and I am calling on the FCC to champion the rights of the smaller companies to exist.

Thank you, Bernard McPhillips

Bernard McPhillips

