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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,

For my household I chose a competitive, smaller local, broadband provider after years with AT&T because I was tired of my service complaints landing on deaf ears. I have since been much happier with the service and wonderful technical support by knowledgeable techs who are responsive and competent in the English language.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act is supposed to enable competitive market entry and encourage 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 growth and expansion of fiber deployment in order to support competition in the market. Without access to this infrastructure, smaller companies and start-ups are at risk of losing access to a huge portion of the customer base, leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers.

Please continue access to copper as a bridge to fiber so that, through a truly competitive market, our citizens can be connected to the fastest, most affordable internet available.

Susan Standish