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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,

According to <https://www.fastmetrics.com/internet-connection-speed-by-country.php#top-10-comparison-2017>, in the first quarter of 2017 (the latest calculations available), America's average internet speed was slower than nine other countries. We won't catch up with the leading nations of the world very fast if there is little competition between providers, because prices are bound to increase where there is little competition.

Broadband services are how we communicate with the rest of the world of our choosing: with friends, family, large and small corporations and financial institutions and mom-and-pop stores across the world. Slow broadband services will hinder our ability to do that, preventing our economy from being what it could be if we had more speed. Also, families would have a more difficult time using apps like Face Time and Skype to communicate with friends and family with slower, and perhaps no internet.

Our telephone service is now bundled with our DSL because it eventually became cost effective to purchase it that way due to competition in our area.

We are concerned that prices will rise faster than internet speed and people will have fewer choices if competition is stifled, and the few companies that control internet structure raise prices.

James Staats