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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**

Please say NO to AT&T's request to take away access to critical unbundled network elements used by local ISPs like the one I use, Sonic, based in Santa Rosa, CA. This will, at best, result in a drastic price hike for my Internet access. Not to mention a stifling of competition, a slam at a basic American value which the FCC should not be supporting.

As a resident of a rural area, for many years my only choice for broadband Internet connection was Comcast. A year ago I moved, still in the same rural area, but to a small hamlet where I was able to sign up with Sonic as my ISP. This was a vast improvement.

When I need technical assistance, I dial a number taking me directly to a human being. Not someone in the Philippines or India, but in Santa Rosa, CA, the large town near me. This person is knowledgeable and usually solves my problem in a short time.

Contrast this with Comcast (or any other giant of the telecom industry): Just try making a phone call to their tech support. As an example, once when I called Comcast tech support, I never got to a human. Their system simply reset my modem and told me to try again. Pitiful.

The human being I talk to at Sonic is an American living in America working at a job provided by a local business. Contrast this with AT&T, Comcast, and the rest of the telecom giants.

Broadband is critical to my livelihood. I am a semi-retired software developer who still writes code for a living, and Internet access is essential for my work. (If you can get the government to send me more Social Security each month, I will worry less about the Internet, but my wife does like to stream movies.)

My Internet connection with Sonic also provides, at no extra charge, a phone landline. Not having to pay a separate telephone bill in addition to an Internet bill is a big plus. Even more important in the rural area where I live is the landline. We have frequent power outages in the winter, but always the landline works. It is quite important when other means of communication are not available.

Please decline AT&T's request.

Roger House