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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,

As an implementer of cloud technologies who frequently works from a home office, I am dependent upon fast, secure, and stable connections to the internet. In my area, I have only two national providers that offer service which is poor quality DSL, with frequent latency and load issues (Comcast and AT&T). They have not invested in Fiber, and they have not invested in new Hubs since the early 2000's leading to frequent packet drops, peak hour slow-downs, mid-day slow-downs, and horrendous latency.

Local providers like Sonic help fill this gap, offering high quality DSL and now High Quality Fiber connections. These regional utilities depend upon the positive experience of their customers more than large national providers, meaning that they invest more in the infrastructure, respond quickly to issues (slowdowns, outages, etc), and offer better service at competitive prices.

If it were not for Sonic, a regional carrier, I and all others in my community that are reliant upon stable, secure, speedy connections, would be left in the lurch or forced out of our home office environments and into Office Co-Sharing spaces, JUST to have consistent, reliable connectivity.

Regional Carriers are imperative to serve the needs of customers in hard-to-serve localities like mine, and force larger carriers to actively compete in these areas, rather than resting on their laurels.

Please do not impose additional restrictions on these regional providers, making it harder and more expensive for them to get those last-mile connections. The communities that these areas target are typically under-served by national chains, and stifling competition in these regions would be the same thing as stifling digital infrastructure development in these regions.

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