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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,

I live in one of the most tech-savvy cities in America (San Francisco), yet up until about two years ago I had zero choice in Internet providers. I was forced to use AT&T DSL with its abysmal speeds and high price. I had no other option. It was a terrible service with a company notorious for terrible customer support. I couldn't 'speak with my wallet' because there was nobody else to talk to.

Then along comes a local Internet provider (Sonic) and it was like God himself had descended from the heavens and blessed my connection with the gift of fiber. I was a skeptic before but now I believe in miracles.

Local providers, for me specifically, enable:

1. Choice.
2. Better technology and better prices.
3. Reliability.
4. Amazing customer support.

All things that AT&T lacks.

One major side-effect of broadband competition that nobody focuses on (much) is that it forces everyone else to do better. I only had one other choice beyond AT&T, but luckily it happened to be an amazing company. It would have been nice to have two amazing companies to choose from. The state of the Internet in the US is embarrassingly behind most of the rest of the civilized world. It's slow. It's expensive. It's hard to get in some areas. Try going to Iceland and having gigabit Internet from your campground tent 100 miles from anywhere. It's a reality the rest of the world enjoys while we're stuck in the virtual Internet stone age.

Lack of competition allows the large telcos to rest on their laurels, they have no reason to improve service thus they continue to provide a service that is slow, unreliable and costs twice what it should.

Competition pushes the technology further and makes everyone have to invest in infrastructure to bring adequate Internet service to everyone, all Americans. The best country in the world deserves the best Internet infrastructure and we are woefully behind due to the way the big corporations have sliced up 'regions' and forced out competition, much like the Gambino crime family did to New York throughout the latter part of the 20th century. We deserve better. We need to break out of this racket and bring true competition, a true free market to the industry.

Americans want it. Americans need it. Please work toward providing a true free market for Internet providers instead of the closed, monopolistic system we now 'enjoy'.

Thank you.

Matthew Janulewicz