

Geoff Skigen
132 Bartlett Street
San Francisco CA 94110

Aug 30th 2018

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,

A free marketplace is the cornerstone of our economy. If your company doesn't meet customer satisfaction, you're not around for long. If you do, you thrive.

I am an AT&T Wireless customer and have been for 10 years+. I have been a DirecTV customer for 15 years. I had AT&T Uverse for my Internet access for 8 years. Unfortunately that service was lousy. Sonic was able to offer me broadband fiber optic service in my home. For less money. That's a big deal. I'm grateful they were able to carve some room in the competitive landscape because frankly, I was paying \$50 or so for 8-10 Mbps. Now I pay \$55 and I get gig service. It's night and day.

Healthy competition is what keeps companies, well, competitive. There's less incentive to innovate if there's no one else to compete with. That sucks. Because eventually products and services get old and obsolete.

Because we're talking about the Internet and access to it here, it is vital we keep the market open to all the competition we can take. Not just so we can have the best Internet service here, but so our innovation can make sure America is a global innovator in this arena. If we lose our footing here, the consequences are far more reaching than higher costs for consumers and businesses.

Broadband is like oxygen. Sad, but true. At home, work, at my kid's school. In stores. Hospitals. Airports. It's everywhere. We depend on it. We need access to information to be affordable to everyone.

I already pay AT&T \$382/month for wireless and DirecTV. That's a lot. Any additional costs to what I pay Sonic would create a financial burden for me. AT&T should welcome competition and use it to raise it's own standards of innovation across its products and services. You got too big before in the 80's and were broken up. You're doing it again. Maybe not this administration, but the next would take action along with consumer groups if you get too bloated. Use your resources to advance technology, not hinder it.

Thank you.

Geoff Skigen