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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,

I have been using ADSL since 1999; at the time, I was happy to be able to get 1.544 Mb/s from (what was then) Pac\*Bell (the local ILEC).

Fast-forward to 2010; in the same location (about mid-way between San Francisco and San Jose, California), and I was finding 1.544 Mb/s somewhat restrictive, so I started asking colleagues for suggestions for better alternatives. The CLEC I found -- Raw Bandwidth -- was able to provide 5.4 Mb/s over the same facility at a price comparable to what I had been paying the ILEC, thanks to the provision that USTelecom is trying to gut.

By profession, I have been working with computers and networks for some decades, now. My current employer is in the entertainment industry; I work in a small group that develops server-side software for their CDN (for streaming content). I also am involved in software development and security research (quite aside from my work for my employer); my Internet connection is crucial to these activities.

USTelecom's claims regarding the extent of competition are, at best, highly misleading -- at least, from the perspective of the consumer: I have very few options for broadband connectivity; indeed, what I have now barely qualifies (if that). If Raw Bandwidth were able to make use of a higher-bandwidth facility at a competitive price, I would be very happy to upgrade. But given my experience with Pac\*Bell (now AT&T) as an ISP, I am decidedly reluctant to revert to using them as my ISP.

I note (in passing) that my neighborhood does not have usable cell coverage, either: my next-door neighbor worked with his provider (Verizon) for months, installing a microcell and various other approaches, only for Verizon to give up and offer him \$50 to stop bothering them. The mobile phone I have (via my employer) usually registers either "no coverage" or "emergency calls only" when I am at home.

We need more competition., not less.

David Wolfskill