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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,

When I moved to San Francisco from Germany 10 years ago and researched Internet providers I was shocked. Shocked that there was only one DSL provider (AT&T) and only one cable provider (Comcast) to chose from. I was even more shocked when I saw the offering. The maximum speed offered by AT&T was 6MBits, for about \$40 per month plus taxes and fees. I ended up choosing Comcast for significantly more money because I wanted the higher speeds. They kept raising prices every six months or so, and I ended up paying about 20% more two to three years into the contract. In Germany the situation was vastly different. There were about a dozen providers to chose from, and I paid about 30EUR for 16MBit. Prices went down over time because there was healthy competition.

How could it be that in Silicon Valley the situation is so much worse? There needs to be a regulatory framework that allows new players to enter the market and compete with existing players, and their monopolies need to be broken up.

Last year finally a new provider was able to enter the market in SF, Sonic. They offer 1GBit fiber for a competitive price. While consumers in other countries have many options to chose from, the place where the Internet was invented is lagging behind. This hurts consumers and it will ultimately hurt the competitiveness of the US internationally. Fast Internet is an enabler for new services and product offerings, and every citizen should have access to affordable Internet. Nobody should be held hostage by a monopoly.

Tobias Knaup