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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,

Competition in the telecom industry is essential to protect consumers from monopolistic corporations who would prefer to limit choice. Please protect independent providers' ability to lease cables and fiber, to enable them to continue to provide competitive service.

Thank you,

Joseph Balestreri