

Tobie Shapiro
39 Domingo Avenue
Berkeley CA 94705

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,

The last I heard, this was supposed to be a capitalist economic system. I was led to believe that this meant free competition would foster a healthy economy and variety of goods and services for the public. The big internet providers evidently don't believe in that system because they want to wipe out competition. That flies in the face of what US citizens were taught in school, what is touted by politicians on both sides of the aisle and the way we function from day to day in the purchase of goods and services.

My services provider is a small firm in my home town. They are responsive to the customers and do an honest business. There are hundreds of such small providers all over the country who serve a public that the major providers seem not to need. Is there some philosophical reason that AT&T and its fellow travelers believe that these small providers are threatening their consumer base? That doesn't seem to be the case, since they are not suffering financial hardship. Do they believe in a monopolistic economic system, or in a vigorous competitive playing field?

My family, and my family's businesses have always invested our financial resources in healthy, honest, innovative companies that value quality and are loyal to their customers. In return we are loyal to them. I am writing this letter on behalf of the small businesses who keep the large businesses as honest as possible and as responsive to the public and our democratic system as possible. Using this latest grab for the power of monopolies as an example, I do not think that AT&T and other enormous businesses are going to find it in the goodness of their hearts to run honest, responsive companies. In return they do not garner any loyalty from their customers. We do need some regulation to enforce their fair minded behavior in absence of any innate fair mindedness.

Please protect broadband competition from this power grab.

Yours,
Tobie Helene Shapiro
Vice President, LABINDUSTRIES
Berkeley, CA

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