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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,

I have in the past enjoyed broadband internet service through a local competitive provider in the community where I lived. I knew their business location, and I knew how to find them when I needed help with their services. I ran into their president at local music events and gave him feedback on his company's services. I found their service to be much more responsive, and of higher quality, than the previous major network to which I had at one time been forced to subscribe.

Eliminating competition -- through the current USTelecomm petition -- is a blatant defensive move by the "big players" to get the nagging independent providers off their backs. Competition means everyone has to work harder to get and retain customers' business -- that is GOOD thing for consumers and for our economy.

Do not allow the current USTelecomm petition to be approved. if it is, independent carriers across the country will lose access to critical network elements, and consumers could lose their choice of providers.

I am a consumer, I vote, and I take note of your actions.

Thank you.

Judy Smith